PLEASANT

ADVENTURES

OF

GUSMAN,

OF ALFARACHE,

TAKEN FROM THE HISTORY OF HIS LIFE,

AND TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH INTO FRENCH,

BY *M. LE SAGE,*

And run through 26 Editions at Paris in a short Time.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

BY

ARTHUR O'CONNER, Esq.

SECOND EDITION.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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ADVERTISEMENT

OF THE

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ONE may safely say that Gusman of Alfarache had been entirely forgotten for nearly thirty years. All the editions being worn out, the book became very scarce, and was known only by a few aged people, who remembered to have read it in their youth, and with whom alone remained an idea of the agreeable impressions, which the reading of that history occasioned; so that, to this very day, it is nearly unknown to all we call youth. To draw Gusman from oblivion, and introduce so singular and interesting a personage to the world, must in some respect, oblige a generous and disinterested public. To object,

that the life of Gusman being one continued chain of thievery and swindling, might furnish a dangerous lesson to the young reader, is a criticism as vague as it is unjust: those possessed of probity and reflection, will think otherwise. It would be easy to prove, that the reading of such a life with serious attention, would rather suggest reflections of prudence and wisdom.

Those young and imprudent persons, who are so ready upon the most frivolous pretences to quit the paternal mansion, and throw themselves unprovided on a villainous world, may find in this work an excellent lesson of reprehension and advice; for finding themselves without resource, and delivered over to all the dangers of misfortune, they generally fall into the most abandoned misery and reprobation. It is even evident, that it is this misery, which plunges them into all sorts

of crimes, and finally brings the most of them to the scaffold, or to some other melancholy catastrophe. Such has been the fate of Gusman, as will appear by the manner in which his curious adventures terminated. They will moreover learn, that habitual villainy is very rarely eradicated. In effect, it was to no purpose that Gusman saw himself often raised to prosperity and independence; he could not renounce his favourite propensity. There were still some new tricks to be put in practice, in order to procure more money; his evil inclination was too headstrong to be resisted. But at length, whether through his natural libertinism, or because of his knavery being ultimately discovered, he is soon seen to relapse into greater wretchedness, and to draw on himself the just punishment of his bad conduct.

It now belongs to us, by a just trans-

lation, that the work may lose nothing of its original merit, and to speak a few words of its author.

The Life of Gusman of Alfarache, is generally attributed to *Matteo Aleman*. This writer was from the environs of Seville, in Spain, and lived in the reign of Philip II. After having passed many years at court, he left it at length, probably with disgust, and employed himself in several kinds of composition, the most celebrated of which is, his romantic history of *honest* Gusman.

As the Spanish authors generally set at the beginning of those productions of genius, with which they favour the public, some sonnets or prosaic eulogiums addressed to them by their friends, the history of Gusman in its original language, has been honoured with the introductory discourse of a certain Alphonse de Barros, in which

the greatest praise is conferred on the author of this work, He there lays down as a sure maxim, that to delineate a ruffian, tends as much to the establishment of morality, as to paint out a virtuous and irreproachable character; for, if the virtues of the latter excite our imitation, the vices of the former inspire us with horror for such depravity. This history, says he, is admirable both for the probability, which it every where maintains, and for the variety of the prosperity and misfortunes which successively happened its hero. When it made its first appearance in Spain, it was so favourably received, that the author, through excellence, was styled the *Divine Spaniard.* It has since that time passed through twenty-six editions. It has been translated into the Italian, French, and German languages, and has been no less pleasing in its various transla-

tions, than in its original production. The oldest French translation appeared in the year 1632. Its title was, "*The Beggar, or the Life of Gusman of Alfarache, a true Picture of Human Life, wherein all the Impostures and Knavish Tricks that are practised in the World, are pleasantly and profitably described.*"

This title has been exactly verified; for in the history of Gusman may be found true pictures of civil life—pictures which imperceptibly correct, and make more impression, than the more refined precepts of stubborn morality. But the author should stick to those instructions, and not interrupt every moment the thread of his narration, to flounce bombastically into declamations against the manners of the times, and by a kind of episode form so many particular histories, entirely foreign to the life of his hero. "Gusman of Alfarache," said a man of taste in our days, in his Literary

Memoirs, "will be always read with pleasure. Its editions are now nearly exhausted; should it be ever printed again, it will be necessary to retrench all that is foreign to the subject, such as the tedious Romance of *Osmin and the Beautiful Daraxa*, and all those mournful histories interspersed through the work, in one of which the pretty little hand of a lady is cut, which causes the most horrible vengeance to be the consequence."



This is precisely the plan we have followed, in retrenching from our collection all those digressions. Hence we have reduced to three volumes the four volumes translated by M. Le Sage. As that edition is nearly extinct, and copies of it so very rare and dear, we have collected all that is keen or saty-

nical in the life of Gusman, in order not to lose entirely a work so very agreeable in that kind of literature.

The intelligent reader will easily perceive in the whole course of those Adventures, the characters are drawn by a masterly hand, and that the figures of that *kind of vanity*, which peculiarly characterize a *certain nation*, are very expressive. With regard to the style, it is the same as that of the present translation, of which we happened to speak, that is to say, it is pure. The subject is uninterupted and spirited; advantages, that ever render the reading of them agreeable and interesting.

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OF THE

ENGLISH TRANSLATOR.

READER,

GENTLE or simple I care not, if in the perusal of the following sheets you find any pleasure, much good may it do you: If not, and that you feel no pleasure in a civil joke, good night to you, you are no acquaintance of mine. Unbiassed by any lucrative motive, I have undertaken a very laborious translation, and the only counterbalancing gratification was, to afford some amusement to a few friends, who happened not to know French. Though Gusman has appeared decked out with all the

My own indifference, and my little consequence in the world, put me far beyond the reach of such satyrical explosions. With all the composure of an Irish duellist, who, after exchanging the first fire with his adversary, and preparing for a second, I am ready to exclaim, "Fire away honey, I'm your man."

A. O'CONNER.



PLEASANT

ADVENTURES, &c.

CHAP. I.

Origin of Gusman.—Account of his Father and Mother.

My father was originally from the Levant; but happening to establish himself at Genoa in his youth, he passed for a Genoese. He there associated with the nobility, and attached himself to the business of banker, an employment common enough with the nobles of that city. Becoming bankrupt to a large amount, he was obliged to pass over into Spain to see him who was the cause of his bankruptcy, and

who had taken refuge at Seville; from whom he contrived to draw a part of the debt. This affair being ended, my father still continued the business of banker in the latter city. He conducted himself in a manner so very honourable, and affected to shew so much justice and probity in his dealings, that he gained the esteem and friendship of the best merchants in Seville.

He might then probably be worth about forty thousand livres, which was no trifling sum for a man who knew to a miracle how to ape the great merchant. No one on the exchange made so much bustle as he: in short, his affairs prospered so well, that nothing less than a splendid mansion in the city, and an elegant villa in the country, could satisfy his extravagant taste for pleasure.

He magnificently furnished the two, particularly his country seat, which be-

longed to St. John, of Alfarache, whose sirname I have assumed. But as his propensity to pleasure was excessive, this house, by the frequent opportunities it afforded of extraordinary expence, ultimately ruined him. He insensibly neglected his affairs, and totally depended on his clerks. It was about this time he took it into his head to pay his addresses to the mistress of an old general, and he had such close connexions with her, that, after the commander's death, he resolved to espouse publicly this lady, who was generally known throughout Seville by the title of the *Commandress*. I was the first and only fruit of this marriage. My mother was possessed of very singular beauty, and of extraordinary talents in furthering her own interests. My father was no stranger to her reputation. What signifies that? He also knew very well what he did. From the time of

his acquaintance with her, his affairs began to sink irreparably to ruin. The lady, who was herself economical, and a knave into the bargain, had known so well how to put h r favours to profit, with which she honored the old man of war, that she possessed at least, at his death, ten thousand good ducats. With a sum so considerable, my father staved off an impending bankruptcy, and found himself in a situation to sport his figure once more among the wondering merchants. Every thing went on tolerably well for the first few years. But my father loved too excessively ostentation, splendour, and noise; it was indeed his predominant passion. As he could not keep up this pageantry long, without relapsing into the same embarrassment, from whence my mother's money had already extricated him, it soon after happened, that he saw himself obliged to sink under his last bank-

ruptcy. I say his last; for, seeing himself destitute of every resource, and unable to support his house on the same good footing, he thought it more eligible to let himself die with grief, than survive his misfortune.

His death afflicted my mother extremely: our houses were no longer our property; we must abandon them to the creditors; there remained of all we possessed but some jewels and furniture, which my mother disposed of by auction, and resolved on retiring to a small house, where she might live with more tranquillity and with less expence: It is not but she might still *decently* support her family by new gallantries. Although she was now in her fortieth year, from the care she had ever taken of her complexion, which she had never harassed by dissipation of the grosser kind, she was still a conquest not to be despised: But she would have

been obliged to make the first advance, and that is what she could not bring herself to do, after having all her lifetime seen herself ardently sought after by men. This noble pride so badly corresponded with our domestic affairs, that they imperceptibly dwindled away to nothing.

I was then entering on my fourteenth year; and as I had then feeling enough to shrink from the misery which threatened us, I resolved in good earnest to quit both mother and country, and seek my fortune elsewhere. I determined on travelling to know the world, and I had reason to wish I had begun it earlier. My greatest desire was to pass over to Genoa, to see my relatives there by the father's side; so much so, that one fine day, not being able to resist the temptation which pressed me to execute my design, I set off from Seville with my head stuffed with chi-

meras, and my purse nearly empty of money.

CHAP. II.

Gusman quits Seville.—His first Adventure in a paltry Inn.

As I remembered to have heard said, that it behoved all adventurers to deck themselves out with some name of consequence, without which they would pass in strange countries for insignificant wretches, I gave myself the name of Gusman, which was that of my mother, and probably the most honourable branch of our family; I also dubbed myself with the lordly title of Alfarache. It seemed to me a very lucky conceit; and behold me now already in fancy the illustrious Signor Gusman of Alfarache.

This mushroom nobleman, not having begun his journey till after dinner, did not travel far the first day, although he walked as fast as if he thought he would be pursued, or that he believed he could never be far enough from Seville. I, however, limited my journey, and halted at the chapel of St. Lazarus, about half a league from that city. I was already extremely fatigued, and sat down on the steps of the church, when remarking that the night was approaching, I began to be very sad, and to feel uneasy at what should become of me. A pious idea struck me, which I instantly satisfied. I entered the chapel, and prayed to God to inspire me. My prayer was fervent, but short, for I had not time to make a long one. The hour of locking the church arrived, I was obliged to turn out, and take up my night's lodging on the stone steps, very much troubled for my personal security.

Figure to yourself for a moment, at the door of this chapel, a child of distinction, cherished as the son of a merchant of Toledo, and reared up in abundance; does it not furnish a melancholy picture of folly and inexperience? Consider that I neither knew where to go' nor on what to determine. There was no inn near it; a few paces from me ran a little rivulet of clear water: ill-boding commencement for a journey! To crown my misfortunes, my belly spoke to me in the strong language of distress, and told me it was time for supper. I then knew the difference between a starving and banquetting man, between him who can sit down to a good table, and him who has not a morsel of bread to satisfy the wretched cravings of frustrated appetite. Not knowing then what to do, or what door to rap at, I resolved to pass the night where I was, since necessity would

have it so. I stretched myself at full length, and covered my nose and eyes with my cloak, but not without apprehension of being devoured by the wolves, which I sometimes imagined to have heard prowling round me.

Sleep, however, at length suspended my fears, and rendered itself so well master of my senses, that I did not awake until two hours after sun-rise, nor would I then, but that I was roused by the noise of drums, that several peasants were beating, who were passing by singing and dancing apparently on some festival. I got up immediately, having no difficulty to quit my *form*, or settle for my night's lodging, and finding in this place different roads, to me all equally unknown, I pitched on the best-looking, saying, May this road, which I take by chance, conduct me straight to the temple of fortune. I did as the old quack doctor of La Mancha,

who generally carried with him a small bag filled with prescriptions, and who, when called upon to visit a patient, drew out the first that came to his hand and said, "God send you a good one." My feet did the office of my head, and I followed them without knowing where they were conducting me.

I travelled two small leagues this morning; it was not bad for a boy who had never walked so far before; I thought I was already among the antipodes, and had, like the famous Christopher Columbus, discovered a new world. This new world, however, was no other but a miserable tavern, where I entered covered with sweat and dust, and dying with fatigue and hunger. I asked at first for dinner, and was told there was nothing to be had but some fresh eggs. Fresh eggs! said I. My mouth filled already with the water of approbation. I am satisfied; make

haste. and prepare for me half a dozen ; dress them into an omelet. The hostess, who was a frightful old hag, began to gaze on me with distressing attention. She saw very well that I was a wide-gutted sharp-set young fellow ; and I appeared to her so raw, that she judged she might with impunity give me instead of fresh, some half-hatched eggs. With this confidence she approached me, and grinning a kind of affability: " From whence come you, my son?" said she, with a gay air. I told her from Seville, and besought her anew to get the eggs ready for me ; but before she complied with my request, she thrust her dirty old withered hand under my chin, saying, " and where are you going, my little wag of Seville?" At the same time she thought to kiss me, but I hastily turned my head aside to escape her filthy embrace. I was not, however, active enough to shun it

entirely. The old witch gave me a specimen of her breath; I imbibed the infernal stench, and thought with it she communicated to me her old age and infirmities. Happily I had nothing but wind in my stomach, otherwise I would have given her pears for her plums. I said I was going to court, and begged of her again to give me immediately something to eat. She at length made me sit down on a lame stool before a stone table, which she covered with a kind of cloth, and which had every appearance, as to its cleanliness and colour, of a baker's maulkin; she afterwards laid before me some few grains of salt in the bottom of a broken pipkin, and some water in a vessel of the same ware, out of which her ducks and hens usually drank, with a piece of cake as black as the cloth iiself. After having waited a good quarter of an hour, she at length brought in, on a plate as black

as ink, this precious omelet, or more properly speaking, this poultice of rotten eggs. The omelet, the plate, the bread, the earthen pot, the salt-cellar, the salt, the table-cloth, and landlady, appeared to be all of a-piece, the same disgusting filthy colour. My heart would have shrunk from things so disgusting; but, beside being a traveller entirely new, I was obliged to listen to the grumbling uproar of my empty guts, which it might be supposed, were now devouring each other. However, in spite of the slovenliness and filth of my table and the wretched seasoning of the eggs, I bounced on the omelet like a boar on an acorn. Though I felt something once or twice to crackle under my teeth, enough to open the eyes of simplicity itself, I did not stop till I finished it; but in swallowing the last few mouthfuls I thought the omelet had not the same taste as those I usually

eat at home, which I implicitly attributed to the difference of climates, imagining that eggs could not be possessed of the same quality in every country, as if I had been five hundred leagues from my own. At length, when I had finished this delicious mess, I felt myself quite another man, and thought myself extremely happy to have made so good a meal. So true is the common adage, that a good appetite wants no sauce.

The bread amused me for a long time after the eggs, because it was so villainously bad, and that in order to swallow it I was obliged to proceed very slowly to shun the other certain extreme of being choaked. There was no middle course to steer; for after having eaten the crust, which I made the beginning of the task, I wished to fall also on the dough, that was still a complete tough paste; and to my ho-

nour be it spoken, gave it no quarter either. But this was done by the help of wine, which in those parts is very delicious. I got up from table, as soon as I had finished this refreshing dinner, paid my old Jezabel of a landlady, and cheerfully set out again on my journey. My feet, which were beginning to fail me, when I arrived at the inn, resumed new vigour.

I was already a good league from the tavern, and every thing had gone on well so far, when the digestion, which about this time began to operate, gradually caused such a tumult in my stomach, that was followed by incessant belchings, as made me draw a very ill boding omen from the circumstance; I revolved in my mind, what resistance my teeth had met with in grinding the cursed omelet, and made such reflections thereupon, as soon set me to pump my hold to some purpose;

literally speaking, I began to vomit, not doubting but I had eaten an amphibious omelet. Being unable to carry it farther, I was obliged to halt to get rid of the nauseous burden.

CHAP. III.

He meets with an Ass-driver and two Clergymen. —Of the Conversation they had together, and after what manner the Ass-driver and he were regaled in an inn at Cantillana.

I CONTINUED for some time leaning against a wall, which served as an enclosure to a vineyard; I was pale and much weakened from the violent efforts of my late fit. An ass-driver, with several of those animals unladen, was passing by. He stopped to look at me; and, moved with compassion at seeing me in such a condition, asked me what

ailed me. I related to him the accident which had happened me, but I had no sooner told him, I imputed my disorder to a certain omelet prepared for me at the last inn, than he set up such a throat of laughter, that if he had not held the pack saddle of his ass with both his hands, the rascal would have infallibly fallen head foremost to the ground.

When we are afflicted, we do not like our afflictions to be made a subject of ridicule. My face, which was before as pale as death, became instantaneously as red as fire; I looked angrily on the scoundrel, and gave him to understand by the dissatisfied air I assumed, this proceeding of his did not please me at all: this only excited him to continue his laughter. Judging at length the more I would seem provoked, the more cause I would furnish for his mirth, I let him laugh his fill; for I had neither sword nor stick if I

should come to blows with him to give me any advantage; nor did I think, if the affair was to be determined by the fist, that I would crow last on the dunghill. This consideration was the cause, that I gave the villain fair words, wherein I testified for a person of my age a great deal of prudence. He is a man of discernment and good sense, who, let the insult be ever so provoking, declines a battle, in which he is certain to gain nothing but repentance: I wished also to curry favor with the ass-driver, on account of his asses, hoping that one of them would carry me to the next stage, which was a good distance from that place. I however could not refrain from saying to him: Well, my friend, why those immoderate fits of laughter? Have I a nose turned towards my ear? Instead of an answer, fresh bursts of horse-laughing followed my question.

It pleased God, however, that it ended at last. The ass-driver gradually resumed a serious air, and said to me quite out of breath: My little gentleman, it is not at your misfortune I am laughing at all: it is certainly very melancholy for you: but it is your relation of it, that has made me recollect another, which has happened in the same inn to the old sorceress, who so villainously regaled you. Two soldiers, whom she has treated like you, have made her pay for all together; since we are going the same way, added he, you have but to mount one of my asses, and as we are travelling together I will at my leisure tell you the story. I did not wait to be asked twice; I mounted one of the asses, and prepared myself to hear what the ass-driver had to tell me of the two soldiers, whom I had really seen entering the inn just as I left it.

Those two merry blades, said he, asked your old friend, what had she to give them to eat. She told them, as she did you, that she had nothing but some fresh eggs; they of course ordered an omelet to be prepared, and the old hag in a short time served up one of her high seasoned ones, such as she complimented you with. They thought to cut it, and finding something which resisted the knife, they attentively examined it. They soon perceived three little lumps, which resembled very much three little heads of chickens, not matured into perfect form, but whose little bills were already firm enough to remove every doubt on the occasion. The soldiers, after having made so fine a discovery, without hinting any thing about it, covered the omelet with a plate, and asked the landlady if she had any thing else to give them to eat. She proposed to

them two round slices of a shad, which she was after broiling. They accepted her proposal, and had them dressed up with white sauce. After finishing the fish, one of the wags approaching the old woman with an air of affability, as if to settle, dabbed the omelet which he held in his hand, against her old wrinkled phiz, and rubbed her eyes and nose so well with it, that she began to bellow as loud as she was able. Then the other soldier pretending to blame his comrade, and to pity the poor old woman, under pretence of consoling her and wiping off the stinking essence, rubbed his hands all daubed with soot over her disfigured countenance. After this they quitted the tavern, loading the old wretch with execrations and reproaches, who received no other payment for her omelet and shad. I assure you, continued the ass-driver, it would be worth your

while to see your landlady in this pickle, and the pretty grimaces she made in weeping and crying.

The recital of this ridiculous adventure consoled me a little for mine, and made me forget the ass-driver's laughter, who did not fail to begin again as soon as he had done speaking; without that he would not be satisfied with his story. During this time we were still advancing; we overtook two ecclesiastics on the road, who, having espied us at a distance, waited our arrival in order to profit of the convenience of the asses. These good fathers, who were tired, had some pressing business, which urged them to hurry on to Caçalla, where they were going as well as the ass-driver. They mounted each of them an ass, and we four jogged on very sociably together.

Our ass-driver was still too much occupied with the pleasure he had at the

old woman's tavern, to let it rest in peace. He could not refrain from saying that this story would furnish him with sufficient cause for laughing the rest of his life; and I, said I, hastily interrupting him, will have cause to repent all the days of my existence, for not using the old poisoning hag worse than the soldiers did: but wait, she is not dead yet; a day of reckoning may yet come, when she will pay for all her knavery. The priests observed the vivacity, with which I pronounced these words, and were curious to know why I spoke so: the ass-driver, who only waited for the wind of the word, and would ask no better diversion, than to begin the story again, in order to have a fresh occasion for laughter, informed these gentlemen; as he was in a train of talking, he related my affair also, which was no small subject of mortification to me.

The priests condemned very much the conduct of the old hostess, and blamed my resentment as much: My son, said the elder of the two, you are young, headstrong passion, the effect of a warm temperament, carries you away with it, and robs you of the right use of reason; know, that it is as great a sin to be sorry not to have the opportunity of committing a fault, as to have committed it in reality. The priest did not confine his remonstrance to this one point: he held up a long harangue on passion, and on the desire of revenge. I am certain it was a sermon he preached one hundred times, and that he was even glad to have then an opportunity of refreshing his memory. Certain it is, that the greatest part of this discourse was above my comprehension, nor was that of the ass-driver a whit more enlightened, who, always full of his old hag, laughed

under his cap, whilst the divine was losing his time preaching to me. At length we arrived at Cantillana; the two priests dismounted, took leave of us until the morning after, and went to lodge with one of their friends.

As for me, I stuck to the ass-driver, who told me he was going to bring me to one of the honestest and best inns in that town: the landlord is an excellent cook, and will give us no hatched eggs. This assurance gave me a great deal of pleasure, as my stomach stood in need of a good meal to re-establish it. We dismounted at the door of a good-looking house, the master of which came to overwhelm us with civilities: he was the greatest rogue, that was perhaps in all that country, and I may justly be said, to have leaped out of the frying-pan into the fire. The ass-driver conducted his beasts to the stable, where he remained some time to

provide for their wants, and I lay down on the ground as a person who had his thigh-bones shattered, and the soles of his feet inflamed, for being three or four hours on an ass without stirrups. I reposed myself in this situation, until the ass-driver returned, and asked me, did I wish for supper. I am determined to set off to-morrow morning at day-break, in order to arrive before night at Caçalla; I would therefore be glad to go to bed early. I told him, nothing could please me better than to sit down to table, provided he would help me to get up, and even to walk, because I was not able to stand. He rendered me this service, for which I was heartily obliged to him.

We called the landlord, and told him we wished to have a good supper: Gentlemen, said this sharper, it will be your own fault, if you don't make good cheer; you have but to speak; I have

excellent provisions in my house. His reply was very much to my taste, but he had the look of a cheat, and appeared to be as great a liar as the devil; no matter. said I to myself, let him be what he pleases, provided he uses us well; he seems to be a pleasant, good-humoured man. Do you wish, continued he, that I should dress a part of a calf's pluck, which I killed yesterday? It was a calf, added he, taking my hands in a caressing manner, the best little calf you have ever seen. I have been very much mortified to kill the poor little creature, but I could not do otherwise; it cost me too much to feed it those dry times. In order to impose silence on the cursed babler, we besought him, if the pluck was ready, to bring us a cut of it immediately; it is ready, said he, and highly seasoned: at these words he ran to the kitchin, cutting capers all the way, and returned

some moments after with two dishes, on one of which there was some sallad, and on the other a part of the pluck of this fine little calf so much regretted.

I let my companion fall on the sallad, which I did not much like, and began to eat of the pluck; it did not look bad; the only fault it had, was its being too little for two hungry bellies; I had no sooner the bit in my mouth, than down it went, hunger not permitting me to form any judgment of what I was eating. The ass-driver remarking, by the rate [illegible] was getting on, there would be none of the pluck left in a very short time, quitted the sallad, to dispute at least the last bit with me, which disappeared in a moment: we asked again for some more of the pluck, the hangman brought us less than before, in order to irritate our appetite, and make us long for more: indeed the second dish did not amuse

us long, and was followed by a third.

We were not quite so hard on this, as on the other two; being nearly half satisfied, I went on a little more delicately, and could render more justice to the pluck; I did not find it any longer so good, and told the landlord, if he had any other meat, I would be obliged to him to bring it in: if you wish, said he, for the brains of the same calf, I will dress up for you in an instant an exquisite ragoût, and whilst you are waiting, I will give you a pudding made of the guts and caul of the same beast, which, said he, is a very dainty morsel. I had not, however, so favourable an opinion of it, when I tasted it; it smelled so strongly of rotten straw, as made me wrinkle my nose with disgust; I gently let go my hold, and left this dainty morsel to my comrade, who eating still with unabated vigour, de-

voured the pudding in less than no time.

At length the ragoût arrived, I hoped it would revive my appetite; it was dressed with eggs, so as to be a kind of omelet; which the indiscreet ass-man no sooner perceived, than he burst into one of his horse-laughs, that provoked me; I imagined it was to disgust me with this omelet, that he made me remember that of my dinner. I reproached him for his malice; but he still kept up the roar without the smallest abatement, which at length produced a very pleasant scene; for the landlord, who knew not why one laughed so much, and the other seemed so provoked, listened to us as a person, who believed himself interested in the affair; not feeling his conscience clear as to the ragoût, no more than the pudding and pluck. He was as uneasy as a criminal, whom the

smallest thing alarms, and his alarm redoubled, when he heard me say in a rage to the ass-driver, that if he continued to banter me any longer, I would dash the ragoût against the wall. The landlord turned pale at these words; he thought we were reproaching him for his villainy; but wishing to appear firm and intrepid, he affected to stare hard at us both, and cocking his bonnet to tell us with a furious air: By G—d, you shall not laugh so much here; I maintain, and will always maintain, that it is a calf's brain. If you do not think proper to believe me, I will prove it by more than an hundred witnesses, who have seen me kill the calf yesterday.

We were not a little surprised, my companion and I, at the passion of a man, of whom we were not thinking at all; it was for the ass-driver a new subject of laughter on a fresh account;

and for this time I could not myself refrain from following his example, though I had even no inclination; by this we finally disconcerted our landlord, who not doubting but we had discovered the imposture, became more furious. He hastily snatched away the dish off the table, saying, go, my youths, go laugh and eat elsewhere; I do not entertain people who mock me to my teeth. You have but to pay me and quit my house, after which, I give you leave to laugh as much as you please.

My comrade finding his appetite still unappeased, saw with regret the dish carried away. He looked grave again, and spoke to the landlord with a tone of voice between sweet and sour. What the devil ails you, cousin? Who asks you your age, or calls you bullock-head? Bullock-head, or not, I tell you, replied the landlord, I say it is one of the freshest and best calf's heads you

have ever tasted. He pronounced these words with all the demonstrations of a man, who was preparing to fight us; but the ass-driver, who knew him better than I, and who was able enough for him, got up from the table, and swaggering in his turn,—By St. James I do not understand this treatment; must we laugh by note or by rule in this house? Or must we pay tax for laughing? I do not tell you that, replied the landlord on a milder key; I only say, that I will not suffer any man to turn me into ridicule in my own house, or to make me pass for a person who treats his guests badly. Who the devil is speaking of bad treatment? answered the ass-driver. Or who has thought of mocking you? Lay back the ragoût immediately on the table, and you will see it is not on account of that we are laughing. Take my advice, let people laugh and cry in

your house as they please, without finding fault with them.

This discourse of the ass-driver had its effect; the delicious ragoût which had been in a manner torn from our hands, was restored, and peace was once more established. My companion sat down again, and continuing to speak to the landlord:—Know, said he, that if I made fun of you, I would not conceal from you the cause, so frank am I in that respect; it is my character. It is not then on your account we were laughing; it is on account of that omelet, which you laid there before us; it has made me call to mind a certain adventure, which my little comrade whom you see, has had to day in an inn, where he dined. If the ass-driver had stopped there, I would have got off cheap enough; but I was obliged, for the third time, to patiently hear the story of the two sol-

diers and myself, of which he made a merciless recital to the landlord, in such terms, and with such demonstrations of joy, that he seemed, during the whole of the narrative, as if he was swimming in rose-water.

The landlord had sufficient leisure to resume his wits during so long a detail, and, judging that he had taken the alarm unseasonably, took upon himself to act another personage. He interrupted the ass-driver every moment with his " Holy Virgin !" " Great God of Heaven !" and other such like exclamations, with which the whole house re-echoed, and which he accompanied with hypocritical grimaces.— May God punish, said he, when the other had done speaking, every person who does his duty badly ! As his was scheming and thievery, of which he acquitted himself punctually, he did not believe himself apparently inte-

rested in this imprecation. After having finished these words, he was silent and walked for some minutes about the room; then all at once coming to his speech, How is it possible, cried he with a thundering voice, that the earth has not swallowed up this cursed old woman, and that her house has not sunk to the lowest regions of Hell? There is not a traveller who does not complain of that wretch, and of what she gives him to eat. No passenger leaves her house but curses and swears never to stop there again. If the officers of justice who, by the duty of their charge, are obliged to put a stop to her knaveries, suffer them to go on with impunity, they know very well for what: "Oh Heaven! what a world we live in!"

The honest man in this place gave a great sigh, and kept silence, but with an air that gave us to understand he

thought still more than he had spoken. I thought he would stun us no more with such discourse, but I reckoned without my host. He launched out again on the villainous impostures of the old landlady, and, without exaggeration, he kept up this infernal stuff for a full half hour. After which he finished in saying—I render a million of thanks to Heaven that I am not like this damned old landlady, and for being a man of probity and honor. I carry my head erect through all the world, without fearing the smallest reproach or blame from any man. Poor as I am, no tricks or impositions are practised in my house. Every thing, God be thanked, sells for what it is: a cat does not pass here for a hare, nor an old sheep for a lamb. Let no one think to deceive others; it is only abusing himself: Harm watch harm catch.

Happily for the ass-driver and me,

the landlord, being out of breath, was obliged to stop here. I seized this opportunity to ask him, If he had any fruit? He answered, that he got in lately some very good olives. Whilst he was gone for the olives, my comrade finished the calf's brains. I did this ragoût but very little honor, not having found it a whit better than the pudding: that, however, did not prevent it from being finished like the rest. Never did a half-starved wolf eat with more furious voraciousness than the ass-driver; he could not satisfy himself;—we were at least more than an hour at table, and one might say to see him, that it was a successive round of meat coming in, and of empty dishes disappearing, and that it was only then he sat down. As for me I accommodated myself very well with the olives, which were excellent, as well as the wine. With regard to the bread, which

was scurvy enough, it might pass for good, in comparison to that I had at dinner.

Such was our supper. As we were to set off very early the following morning, we begged of our landlord to have breakfast early for us. Afterwards we went to lie down on some straw, after having spread over it some coverlets to serve us as blankets. The fatigue of the journey, and the quantity of wine I had drank, procured me so profound a sleep, that the fleas, whose prey I was the whole night, and who regaled whole armies of them on my unfortunate carcase, were not able to disturb me. I believe I would have slept to the evening of the day following, if the ass-driver had not awaked me with the morning star, to inform me that it was time for us to think of our departure. I was very soon ready; I had only to shake myself, and to take the straws

out of my hair, which were entangled in it. I had all the appearance of a little monster from the condition to which the fleas had reduced me. They disfigured my face in such a manner, you would have supposed me just risen from the small-pox. If at that instant I had been transported back to Seville, I doubt if my mother herself would know me. That day was Sunday. We went first to hear mass, after which we returned to the inn, where my gormandizing comrade did not forget the breakfast; it was the first care with which he embarrassed himself:—Gentlemen, said the landlord, I have made a ragoût of some of the same calf, on whose pluck you supped last night, and I can assure you that I have employed all my art to compose a dish worthy of being laid before you.

The ass-driver, whose mouth began to water at this discourse, ran to place

himself at the table, and fell unmercifully on the ragoût, which appeared to him as delicate as if it had been the flesh of a pheasant. I continued some moments looking at him, without feeling the smallest desire to imitate him: Whether it was that my appetite was not open so early in the morning, or that I had still my supper on my stomach, I know not—but my friend was going on at such a rate as to persuade me he was eating the best thing in the world. Besides that, fearing I would be sorry before dinner for not having profited of so good a breakfast, I made an effort to swallow some bits. Far from finding this veal as agreeable as my companion would persuade me, the taste appeared to me truly disgusting; —as for the sauce, in which the landlord had his reasons to be lavish of his pepper and salt, it stood so in my throat, I was obliged to renounce it as

soon as I had tasted it:—moreover, the meat was so tough, I could not refrain from remarking, that it was a strong tough-hided veal; I even added I had no taste for meat of that description. Our landlord replied, blushing a little in spite of his impudence, You see, said he, it is not mortified enough. The ass-driver, believing what the landlord advanced, or at least that I was wrong to be so delicate, cried out with a tone of mockery, Our young cadet of Seville has been always used to fresh eggs and cracknels; every other thing is disgusting to him.

I shrugged my shoulders at this gibe of my comrade, and said not a single word. Not knowing if I was not effectually too hard to be pleased, or rather imagining myself already to be in another world, I could not however resolve on laying a hand to the dish, and began to make some reflexions which

could not be expected from a person of my age. I called to mind the passion of the landlord, when he had seen us laugh the night before at supper, the oath he had made to us without any necessity; and as every person who wishes to justify himself before he is accused, renders himself suspected, I judged there was some knavery in the affair. As soon as my imagination was once prepossessed against him, the sight and smell of his villainous veal began to make me sick at heart; I could remain no longer at table, and got up, waiting till it should please the ass-driver to do the same thing, which very soon happened. Though the piece of veal was a kind of resistance in itself, my companion made but a very slight repast of it: After which I bid him settle with the landlord, to know how much we owed; but he answered me with an air of uncommon genero-

sity, that as it was so trifling, he would take upon himself to discharge the whole, and that I might make myself easy on that head.

This proceeding, noble for an ass-driver, surprised me extremely, or, more properly speaking, charmed me. If I had been strong in cash, I would undoubtedly have felt my honour hurt; I would not have suffered him to pay for me; but my purse was so very flat, it would be bad economy of me to dispute his generosity; I let him, then, without ceremony, pay the whole expence. Through a motive of gratitude I helped him to curry, rub down, and lead his asses to water, to make them eat their barley, and get them ready in every respect. There was nothing I was not ready to do to testify to him how far I was penetrated with gratitude for his generous demeanor with regard to me.

CHAP. IV.

The Landlord steals Gusman's Cloak:—A great Uproar in the Inn.

In order to be more handy to render service to my friend the ass-driver, and the better to help him to put his asses in a condition to set off, I made a pacquet of my cloak, which I laid on a form; but, having cast my eye on that side a quarter of an hour after, I perceived my cloak was not there. That alarmed me at first;—however, I did not put myself much in pain concerning it, believing either the landlord or ass-driver had purposely concealed it, in order to set me looking for it, and to divert themselves with my inquietude on the occasion.

I could not suspect those two men

to have played me such a trick, though no one but they had entered the stable when my cloak had been taken. I asked it first of my comrade, who seriously told me he never amused himself with that kind of fun. I next accosted the landlord, who at first had recourse to oaths and imprecations to persuade me he had no hand in the theft. Upon that I began to search the house for my cloak: I ran it all over from top to bottom, without forgetting the smallest nook where it might be concealed. In the very bottom of my soul I accused our landlord of the thievery, whose physiognomy alone justified my accusation.

I entered by chance into a back yard, the door of which I opened with some difficulty, and saw there some objects which banished for some moments all thoughts of my cloak: I observed on the pavement a large pool of blood,

freshly shed, and near it the skin of a young mule, with the four feet still attached to it, as well as the ears and head, which was opened to take out the brain, and have the tongue cut out. I considered this spectacle not without horror, and said within myself, Behold the skin of our excellent veal; it is just my companion should see it with his own eyes; he is at least as much interested in the business as I. I returned immediately to the stable to find the ass-driver; to whom I said, quite low, Follow me; I'll shew you something well worth your while. He followed me. I led the way to the back yard, where shewing him the remains of the two good meals we had made—Well, my friend, said I, what do you think of all this? Is it with cracknels and fresh eggs I have always been reared? Contemplate with pleasure this delicious veal, of which our landlord has

made those ragoûts you have found so dainty. You see with what delicacies this excellent cook of yours has regaled us.

The good ass-driver was so much ashamed, he could not answer one word. This is, then, pursued I, that honest man, who sells not cats for hares, or old sheep for lambs, but who has made no scruple to give us a mule instead of a calf. My companion, sad and thoughtful, got back to the stable, and I sought the landlord, to speak to him vigorously in the strong language of accusation and abuse. I imagined, in order to oblige him to restore me my cloak, I had but to inform him, that I had discovered all his knavery, and to threaten him that I would have immediate recourse to justice: as, in fact, it was prohibited by an express law, and under great penalties in Andalusia to have such beasts in his house, and to

cause mares to be covered by asses. He little thought of observing this law, having had about eight days back a mule got between a Jack-ass and a little Gallician mare, whom, depending on their honour, he put into the same stable: he imagined he might, with the same impunity, give it for veal to travellers, who generally never want a good appetite.

I met him in the yard near the well, where he was busy in washing a piece of the suppositious veal; as soon as he perceived me, he hid it. I accosted him with an air of assurance, and bid him, with an intrepid tone, restore me my cloak, or that I would certainly lodge a complaint against him before a magistrate. At these words, which he heard without any emotion, he looked on me with a contemptuous eye, called me a little ideot, and told me he would give me the whip.

I was less provoked with the loss of my cloak than with the manner in which he treated me; I abandoned myself to my resentment, and without having any regard to the inequality of our respective strength, told him he was a robber and a thief, and defied him to even dare lay a hand on me. He appeared nettled with my answer, and advanced in order to ill use me; but waiting for this giant, for such he was with regard to me, I aimed a stone at his scull, which I had previously taken up. By good luck for him it only grazed his ear. Then, instead of rushing on me to overwhelm me with the weight of his body, he ran to his room, from whence he returned in an instant, with a long sword naked in his hand. Far from flying before this treacherous poltroon, I began to abuse him in terms the most provoking, even to treat him as a coward and sneaking scoundrel,

who was not ashamed to make use of a sword against a child, who had no other arms but stones to defend himself.

At the noise of my abuse, both male and female servants ran out, and were all greatly astonished to see their master armed with a sword; on the other hand, my companion irritated against the knave for the detestable ragoûts he made him eat, ran to my assistance with a pitch-fork; the ass-driver and I on one side; the landlord, his wife, children, and servants, on the other, made a violent uproar outside the house, and one might have thought that a most bloody scene was going on in the inn; all the neighbourhood was alarmed; every one ran to the place; they rapped at the door, which was still shut; they shouldered it in, to get as soon as possible to the frightful noise they heard. A troop of the police appeared, consisting of archers, registers,

and alcaids; for, owing to the sins of the inhabitants, there were two judges in the city of Cantillana.

These alcaids were no sooner in the house, with all their gang, than each pretended the investigation of the affair belonged to himself, which soon formed two parties.

The registers and archers divided according to their different interests; and their division on the jurisdiction excited a furious dispute between them. Behold the judges and registers in warm dispute with each other; they descend to reproaches; speak horrible truths; were approaching fast to low-bred abuse; and from vile appellations, would perhaps come to blows, if some honest citizen who had entered with them into the inn, to know what was going on, had not interfered in order to pacify them; which being done, God knows how, there was no more question but

of our quarrel. They began first, as if with reason, to seize me; it is always in the weakest part the cord breaks: I was a stranger without protection or acquaintance, *justice* could not avoid beginning with me.

I must, however, render justice to these alcaids; they were pleased indeed to hear me, before they would commit me to prison; I related to them quite naturally the subject of my quarrel with the landlord for my cloak; afterwards having drawn them aside; I added to this story that of the mule; I told them they would still find the skin of that animal in the back yard, and some pieces of him stewing in the kitchen. Upon this last article of my deposition, the judges let the affair of my cloak drop there, for to run to the back yard, after having, through precaution, caused the landlord to be taken into custody, who did nothing but laugh

all the time, imagining it was on account of the cloak, which no body had seen him take; but when they produced the mule's skin, with all the other vouchers, he became as pale as a condemned criminal; and in the examination they made him undergo, told more than was asked of him. He testified no firmness on any one thing but on my cloak. The villain, through a spirit of revenge, would never acknowledge he had stolen it.

The alcaids sent the wretch to prison, which caused in me some joy in the midst of my troubles; I say in the midst, for I was not as yet at the end of my perplexities. The registers, a people as humane as disinterested, judging me to be a lad of distinction, and that I might have a wealthy father, charitably and like good christians, advised the judges to have me also stopped at all events. This counsel, which

was very much to the taste of the alcaids, was going to be followed, if the honest citizens who were present, had not opposed so great an injustice, saying in a loud and spirited tone, if that be done, the convicted must pay the fine. The murmurs of these honest people prevailed for this once over the good will of the officers of justice, who now favored me through policy.

On the other hand, the ass-driver, a sad witness of all that was going on, and mortally in dread they would seize both on himself and his asses, advised me in a friendly whisper to get away immediately from this land of benediction, where the smallest misfortune that could happen an honest man, was to lose his cloak. I approved very much of his advice, we mounted hastily our beasts, and sallied forth from the inn.

CHAP. V.

A new Misfortune happens Gusman and the Ass-driver.

We had so great a desire to get out of the city, we began to give the heels to our asses, who favoured amazingly our impatience; it seemed as if they had by our example, taken an aversion to that infernal inn, and were in dread of leaving their skins behind them; but when we reached the country, we went only at an easy pace, both of us observing a profound silence, and each busied with his own thoughts; the countenance of my friend the ass-driver, was well worth seeing, it would make misery itself smile: he had no longer any inclination for laughing, since he had seen the mule's skin; he was by no

means tempted to rally me on our two last admirable meals; he feared too much the repartees I might make him: he had eaten six times more than I of the pudding and brains; and as for the ragoût in the morning, he had still the whole of it in his stomach; finally, I would have wherewith to triumph over him, if he took it into his head to be merry at my expence; but he was far from thinking of it.

If he had reason for disagreeable reflections, I was not more satisfied with the images that presented themselves to my imagination. O, Heavens! what unlucky star has drawn me from my mother's house? Scarce have I set my foot outside of it, but every thing has happened contrary to me; one misfortune was but the forerunner of another. For my first night's lodging I was forced to sleep before the door of a chapel, and without my supper too; the day

following I dined on an omelet of half-hatched chickens, and was regaled the same night with different ragoûts of mule's flesh, metamorphosed into veal, and was after until morning the torpid victim of merciless fleas; happily fatigue rendered me insensible to their sanguinary inroads; to-day it was my own fault if I did not make good cheer, in which I have been mistaken, and what is worse, have lost my cloak into the bargain: I was even within a pip of being sent to prison to keep company with a robber; and indeed I can have no blame to the registry clerks for that not happening me.

Every time I thought of this thievery, I sighed bitterly; the remembrance of it went to my heart more than all the rest; indeed I had good reason to be afflicted: my stomach might put up with one or two sorry meals; a disagreeable night is repaired by a good one; but no

honest means can be devised to repair the loss of a cloak with as little money as I possessed; nevertheless as the evil was irremediable, I resolved to bear it with patience. I had heard it said, the life of man was a mixture of good and evil, of pleasure and pain. If it is so, said I, Gusman console thyself, thou art now on the point of meeting some good fortune, since thou hast experienced nought but disappointments and misfortunes since thy departure from Seville.

Full of this sweet hope, I began to resume courage, when two men, who carried every appearance of what they were, and who were coming after us in a very hard trot on mules, having overtaken us, considered me with attention, as persons who were looking for some one that resembled me; their whole figure was but too capable of terrifying me. The holy *Hermandad*, of

which they had the honour of being members, perhaps has never had a pair of such frightful looking ruffians. I appeared to them startled, and even a little embarrassed, when they stared at me. They wanted no more to alight, at the same time they both fell on me; they knocked me down off the ass with a box, then seizing me by an arm, one of them said with the tone of a sheriff: Ah! there is the little villain of a robber! We have nabbed you at last. Come, little varlet, restore that money, restore those jewels, or we will certainly hang you immediately out of that tree, which you see within two-paces of you. At these words, say what I could in my defence, they began to drag me about, and to thump me in such a manner, that one blow never waited for another.

The too-charitable ass-driver, touched with compassion to see me so cruelly

treated, wished to represent to those two devils, that they certainly mistook me. He was very badly paid for his remonstrance; they fell on his unfortunate carcass; when they were weary of beating him, they told him he was my receiver, and that they would stop him with all his asses, in asking him where he had hid the money and jewels. As he could not answer them any other thing, but that he was ignorant what money or jewels they were speaking of, it was a new storm of blows of a stiok which burst on him. I here confess my evil inclination; I felt a malignant joy in seeing the poor devil so unmercifully mauled, of whose ill luck I was the immediate cause. I imagined it was to him I ought to impute the loss of my cloak and our horrible supper. After they had well curried both our hides, they rummaged us from head to foot, and not finding what

they sought for, they tied our hands with cords, with the design of leading us in leash to Seville. We were already both of us coupled like two grey-hounds, when one of the archers who had tied our hands, said to his companion with surprise: Hold, comrade, we are doing things with too much precipitation; I fear, God forgive me, we have been mistaken. The thief we are in pursuit of has no thumb on his left hand, and this chap has every thumb and finger he should have: upon that the other archer thought of drawing from his pocket their warrant, and to read it aloud. The robber, after whom they were in pursuit, was described after a manner totally different from having any likeness to me. Beside being remarked to want a thumb, he was said to be twenty-nine years old, with long black hair, which fell down on his back like a horse's tail.

On the contrary, no one would have taken me to be more than fourteen, and I had my hair very short, red and curled; they saw very well they had made a *qui-pro-quo;* they untied us, took as the reward of their calling and trouble some reas, the poor devil of an ass-driver had in his pocket, blundered out some apologies, sneering in our faces, and remounted their mules, leaving the vanquished victims of their villainy threshed into jelly, principally my friend the ass-driver, whose huge brawny shoulders met with less mercy than mine. In recompense I had my mouth full of blood, and all my teeth loosened in my jaws, from the many hard thumps I received.

That did not, however, hinder us from getting on our asses again, and continuing our journey; but as sadly as any one could act under the like circumstances. When we were about a

league from the village of Pedoso, we perceived and overtook our two priests, who were walking at their leisure waiting for us.

I informed them of the cause of our delay; for in the situation, in which the ass-man was, he had not the courage to unlock his teeth. The good fathers bewailed us very much; our last adventure appeared to them the most melancholy, and gave occasion to one of those gentlemen to say: God preserve every honest man from the three Holies of Spain, viz. the Holy Inquisition, the Holy Hermandad, and the Holy Crusade. God keep every innocent person particularly from the Holy Hermandad: there is some hope of justice with the other two; but all I can say of the Hermandad, blessed are those who never fall into its hands.

The priest who had regaled me with a sermon the day before, and who felt

a great itch to be at it again, made the conversation dexterously roll on the pleasures of this world, to have an opportunity of telling us there was nothing but false pleasures on earth, and that if any one wished to obtain true delights, he must seek them in heaven. That even all those festivals, where people promise themselves the greatest pleasures, are always accompanied or followed by vexation and melancholy.

CHAP. VI.

Gusman becomes an Innkeeper's Boy.—His first promising Talents manifest themselves.

At the end of this fine discourse we arrived at Caçalla. The good priests and the ass-driver continued their journey; as for me, I went to lodge at one of the best inns. They gave me a

good supper for the rest of my money, and put me to sleep in a good bed; nevertheless, instead of enjoying that profound sleep, which the vapours of the meat and wine ought to procure me, I passed the whole night restless and perplexed. The situation of my affairs presented itself in all its horrors to my disturbed imagination, and called up a thousand afflicting images. Thus far, said I, have I drank and eaten: but now it is all over with me. One can with bread support all the afflictions of life. It is good to have a father; it is good to have a mother, but it is still better to have wherewith to eat.

I already beheld necessity with her visage of excommunication, and felt mortally alarmed. I would willingly have taken the resolution to proceed no farther and return to Seville, if I had not considered, that money was

as much wanting to repair my folly, as to push it to its farthest length. I resembled a poor strange dog, who finding himself in the middle of a street, saw behind and before him several dogs barking at him, who were ready to dispute his uncertain passage. Moreover, what shame did I not imagine it to be, to return as a miserable wretch to my mother's house, after having quitted it with so much resolution. The loss of my cloak entered also into my reflections. I thought it would give a new cause of laughter to my return. This last consideration checked every idea of returning to Seville.

On the other hand, still I was grieved to stop in so fine a course; and this point of honour at length gained the victory. I determined on pursuing my travels, in abandoning myself to Providence. I took it into my head to go straight to Madrid, the ordinary residence of our

monarchs, to see a little of the court, which I had heard said to be very brilliant, on account of the great number of noblemen, who composed it, and above all, by the presence of a young king newly married. That appeared to me to merit my curiosity. The most pleasing ideas occurred to me. I built castles in the air. I flattered myself, a boy of my figure and vivacity would be soon taken notice of in that country; that he would make friends for himself, and establish a rapid fortune. Having my head heated with these flattering visions, I had little inclination to sleep, and waited with impatience for day-light to appear, that I might continue my journey. But scarcely had it arrived, scarcely had I taken the high road to Madrid, than all my agreeable chimeras vanished. There remained nothing before my eyes but a long and painful journey to perform.

I did not cease saying to myself to encourage me along: Come Signor Gusman, consider you have weighed anchor. Against fortune, a good heart, my friend. Instead of having on your shoulders a cloak which would in this season embarrass you, you have a stick in your hand, which helps you to walk. I passed the whole day without eating a bit, and at night stretched myself on the grass at the foot of a large tree, which covered me with its leaves. I was so weary, I fell asleep, and did not awake until sun-rise. I felt then I could make a very hearty breakfast, if I had had any provision: but not having even a morsel of brown bread, I was obliged to set out again with an appetite that increased every moment. Towards noon, my hnnger became so extreme, I was unable to advance a foot farther, I became so very weak.

In vain my belly cried cupboard; my limbs carried me but with reluctance.

Luckily two men passed by me, who had the appearance of being rich merchants. They were mounted on mules that were going at a great rate. At this sight my courage revived. God be praised, said I to myself, here are gentlemen, who look as if sent by Providence to defray my expences for this day. Let us follow them; the hope of making a good meal at their expence, inspired me with new vigour.

Indeed a dinner was then to me an affair of the greatest importance. I therefore followed them so close, as to arrive at the same time with them at the inn, where they stopped. I had the face of a corpse. I endeavoured to render them some service. I hastened to hold the bridle of their mules, whilst they were alighting, and offered myself to carry into their apartment

their portmanteaus, with a large sack, wherein their provisions were stowed. But whether my eagerness became suspected by them, or that they were naturally savage or mistrustful, as soon as I laid my hand on the sack, one of them roared out with a voice that made me tremble, quarters, friend, quarters! At these terrible words, I was thunderstruck. I drew from them a very sad omen for my stomach. I was not however entirely discouraged; I walked after them to their room, with an humble air, and my hat in my hand. They had, according to the custom of Spain, brought with them some good provisions. I saw them take out of the sack a shoulder of roast mutton, a piece of ham with some bread and wine; which did but cause the greater desire in me to attend them, in order to curry favour. I advanced and took a glass, with the design of rinsing it, but the other mer-

chant, who said nothing before, snapt it out of my hands, telling me a good deal more bluntly than his comrade: No, no, leave that glass there, we want no such waiters as you.

O traitors! said I then. Enemies of God and humanity! Merciless and savage barbarians! unfeeling monsters! In vain, I see, I have run myself out of breath to follow you thus far. I persisted however in sticking close to them. I hoped they might become more charitable, when belly-full, and that they would thruogh compassion throw me a bone to gnaw, or a morsel of bread, even the smallest pittance to put under my tooth. Nothing came to poor starving Gusman. They eat without even deigning to cast one pitying look on me. In vain I devoured their provisions with my eyes; that by no means appeased my hunger. To overwhelm me with affliction, I saw those inhuman gluttons put up in

their sack the remains of their dinner, even to a small bit of bread, with which they departed. What barbarity! What a spectacle for a poor friendless boy, whom starvation reduced to the last extremity. I was ready to expire with grief and inanition, when there came into the same room a friar of the order of St. Francis.

At this sight I conceived no great hopes of consolation. What succour could I expect from a poor monk, who was travelling on foot? From a beggar, who appeared to have need himself of assistance? He was all over sweat and dust, and had every appearance of being much fatigued. He however carried a wallet, which he laid on the table, and which I considered with a great deal of attention. It made the water run from my mouth, before I even knew what it contained. When his reverence drew out his provision,

which consisted of a tolerable large loaf of white bread, with a piece of corned beef, which would have excited my longing even in my mother's house, I riveted my languid eyes on it, and stood with my mouth gaping wide from rapturous attachment. I would then be very proud to be his young brother. I thought I had in my throat, every bit he was swallowing. He cast his eyes by chance on me, whilst he was eating, and observing I had an imploring countenance :—As God's alive, cried he, animated with a holy zeal, come here my child; I will not let you languish in the necessity, wherein I see you; if I had but one morsel of bread, it should by your's. Here, my son, added he, giving me the half of his bread and meat, take a little nourishment; I would be unworthy to live, if I did not assist thee.

O Providence! who givest subsist-

ence to beasts even from the rock, thy divine goodness is careful of all! For this act of disinterested charity, I lavished blessings on the good father, and began to let him see he had not judged badly of my famished looks. When I had appeased my ravenous cravings a little, I gave thanks for so fortunate a rencounter. How pleasant it would have been to me to have thirty leagues to travel with this good ecclesiastic. My fate would have been worthy of envy; but for my sins, he was going to Seville, and separated after dinner. It is true, before our separation, he put his hand in his wallet, and gave me again the half of a small loaf he had got in it, to divide with me, said he, all that he had. I took good care to thrust into my pocket this last piece of bread, after having eaten the first with a cut of the corned meat; then having drank some good

clear water, as I had seen the good Franciscan do, I resumed gaily the road to Madrid.

I travelled three leagues more that same day, and arrived about night-fall at Campanario, a large village of New Castile. I entered into an inn, where for want of better, I supped on the bread I had in my pocket. It was the general stage of the muleteers of Truxillo, many of whom arrived there that night; all the beds were for those honest people. The landlord sent me to sleep in the straw-loft, where I ascended with much docility, not being in a situation which was hard to be pleased. I lay down on the straw, and slept quietly until morning: I got up as nimbly as a man, who had not his stomach overburthened with the night's dissipation, and was already outside the inn, when the d——d landlord stopped me in a ruffianly manner

to pay for my lodging. He demanded four maravedis; I had them not: I struggled to escape from his hands; but he held me fast, and perceiving my coat of good cloth, he set about stripping me of it, in order to end the dispute. He looked on the business as already finished, and would have easily accomplished it, if, by good luck for me, a muleteer, who was present, had not been moved with my distress.—Let the little fellow alone, said he to the landlord, I'll pay for him. It is very evident he is a child of some distinction, who has left his father or mother's house. At these words the landlord withdrew his claim on me, and asked me would I serve him in quality of waiter, saying there was then one wanting in his inn.

At any other time such a proposal would have appeared to me ridiculous, I would even be offended with it; but

misery removed all my difficulties, and silenced all my scruples. After having paused for some moments, the idea of hunger determined me at once; I answered I would.—Very well, said he, you may come in, I only desire of you two things; the first, that you give straw and barley to those who shall ask them; and the second, that you keep a good and faithful account of what you give out. I promised to acquit myself of this worthy employment the best I could. After this promise, behold me engaged beyond the power of retracting.

How hard soever servitude might be to me, who was always accustomed to be attended myself, I did not fail at first to be contented enough with my condition. There passed but few horsemen during the day through this place; so that I had very often nothing to do but to eat and drink until night

which was the time the Muleteers generally arrived. I soon learned all the tricks and manœuvres that are practised in these inns; how with hot water to swell the barley to three times its quantity, and how to measure it out after, that the landlord be no loser. There was no necessity to shew me twice the *review* of the mangers; I knew how to take away three parts of the barley from the passengers and muleteers, even those who intrusted us with the care of their cattle. But when any young cavaliers, distinguished by their whiskers and garters, came into our defiles, if they had no servants, we never lost sight of them; we ran immediately to help them to alight. These gentlemen, for the most part, aping the grandee of fashion, or the man of importance, never deigned to enter a stable; they contented themselves with recommending to us the care of their horses

and mules. As this recommendation was so powerful, we led the poor devils to a place, where there was not a single straw or a grain of barley. We tied them up to the rack, where we left them to bite the bridle at their leisure. However, sometimes through compassion, we gave them a few moments before their departure a handful of barley, to give them a good mouth, the half of which the hens and pigs of the house devoured. The old she-ass, too, sometimes came in for her dividend.

Behold after what manner, those fine gentlemen, who depended on our honesty, were served, and if we made them pay well for what their beasts had not eaten, judge if their own entertainment did not cost them dearly. I gloried whenever it was my lot to settle with them. So many reas and so many maravedis, gentlemen, to which I added with a gracious air—*Y haga les*

buen provecho, a common compliment made at the end of reckonings, which never failed to bring me in something. You may well imagine we demanded from those passengers twice as much as they owed, notwithstanding the regulations of police instituted to prevent frauds. My master thought very little of their ordinances, they were the least of his trouble; though they were stuck up in different parts of the house; it was sufficient to have them, and to punctually pay the duty and perquisites arising from the like, to the alcaid and registers, was an absolute exemption from every obligation.

Knowing travellers, who who were up to this fine practice, gave without saying a single word, whatever was asked of them; but those who were not, often took it into their heads to kick up a dust, and should settle with the landlord himself. It was then in-

deed, out of the frying-pan into the fire with them; our master in drawing up a fresh account, augmented, lest he should be under any mistake, the price of every thing; and when he had once *taxed* the reckoning to a certain sum, it was a sentence beyond appeal, they must infallibly open their purses. Woe be to the traveller, who thinking to get better quarters from the innkeepers of Spain, threatens or acts stubbornly with them. As they are all mostly officers of the Holy Hermandad, they cause him to be arrested in the next town or village he passes through. They accuse him of having had a design of burning their house, of having struck them, or of having violated their wives and daughters, and he is too happy if he can get out of the scrape by paying double his reckoning, and begging the landlord's pardon.

We had also some handsome servant

girls in the house, bnt it was dangerous to meddle with them. It was still good to have your wits at work, to be ever on the alert, for any thing you forgot was so much lost. What thieves! What infamies! What lies! What roguish tricks, and double dealings! No living soul in that inn feared God, they only respected the officers of justice. As soon as one becomes an innkeeper, it seems as if he took out a licence for the seven deadly sins altogether; as if he had permission to do every thing, and to have an absolute power over the goods, as well as the persons of those who are obligated to stop at his inn.

CHAP. VII.

He is disgusted with his Situation, abandons the Innkeeper and his Inn, and betakes himself to Madrid, where he associates with Beggars.

BESIDES having a disposition too volatile to relish, for any length of time, the same mode of living; I did not find the one I was leading suitable to a person, who had not left his mother's house, but to see the world. Moreover, an inkeeper's servant appeared to me beneath the rank of a blind-man's boy. Every day boys of my size and age were passing by our door, and after asking the way to Madrid, continued their journey with an air of gaiety and resolution. One day I grew ashamed of my supineness. How, said I, shall the fear of wanting bread keep me here

always, whilst those young fellows, who have no more courage or strength than I, expose themselves bravely to suffer hunger and thirst? I have perhaps as much sense as they, and ought not of course have less resolution. These reflections inspired me with courage, and bidding defiance to misfortune, I took once more the road to Madrid, after having demanded my discharge from my honest master, who gave methree reas for all the services I rendered him.

With this money, and the little I had received from the liberality of the travellers, who put up at our inn, I was able to travel to the famous bridge of Arcolis, built over the river Tagus, from whence I continued my route, in doing as the other chaps did, I mean stretching an imploring hand through all the villages I passed, and to every gentleman I met. But the harvest was so

very bad that year, very little charity could be expected; at least very little was bestowed. I sold my coat, and was of course in a very fine trim, when I arrived in that celebrated capital of Spain. I had only a pair of breeches, with one shirt, black and torn, a pair of stockings full of holes, and shoes, whose only bottoms were the soles of my feet. I looked more like a deserter from a house of correction, or a scape-grace from the gallies, than a child of distinction. It was in vain I sought to get into the service of some person of quality, which was then the highest fortune I could aspire to. With so miserable a dress, every one was prejudiced against me; I had beside so thievish a look, a person should be very hardy to resolve on taking me into his service. No one could look at me attentively without saying within himself:—There is a young shaver, who

will play some fine trick as soon as he meets with a proper opportunity. At length, seeing my figure was such that no one would hire me either as page, lackey, or even scullion, I turned my towards a troop of beggars, whom perceived at a church gate. I began to consider them; they appeared to me so fresh and so gay, I believed I could not do better than enrol myself in their number. I joined myself to them, and they received me as a subject, whose air and equipage were not unworthy of their community.

Before I arrived at Madrid, I had the precaution to leave shame after me on the road, being too heavy a burden for a foot-man to carry. If I had not previously got rid of that cruel enemy of hunger, I would not fail to soon lose it with such honest people, who were all themselves experienced birds of prey. I followed them every where, and

served them as assistant, waiting until I would have sufficient experience to contribute in making their pot boil yellow, which was never empty. They had twice a day plenty of soup, of which I was sure to have my part, provided I punctually attended the hours of dinner and supper; otherwise, coming in at the heel of the feast, I might kiss the hare's foot.

After our meals we diverted ourselves at play; I soon learned five and ten, thirty-one, quinola or reversis and primero, with a thousand other tricks on the cards. I had such happy dispositions I imperceptibly improved under those excellent masters. I felt my genius become daily more subtle and more tricking. Little as I was, I wished to imitate those of the brotherhood, who, for fear of being chastised as vagabonds, went into the markets with their baskets to carry the provisions,

which the citizens brought there. This occupation appeared to me a little troublesome in the beginning, but I accustomed myself so well to it afterwards, I found no employment could be half so agreeable. What a fine thing, said I, to have both office and benefice, without being obliged to use needle or thread, hammer or wimble; to want nothing but a basket and a little industry to subsist comfortably! The life of a beggar is a morsel without a bone, a concatenation of pleasures, an employment exempt from cares. How insensible were my parents to take so much pains to live miserably! Into how many embarrassments have they not thrown themselves to support their commerce and reputation! O silly honor of the world, thou art a heavy burden for fools, who wish to load themselves with thee!

One day as I was carrying in my bas-

ket a quarter of mutton, which an honest shoemaker, who was walking on before me, had bought in the market, I perceived at my feet in the street a paper, which I took up: it happened to be an old ballad. I began to read and sing quite low. The shoemaker was surprised to hear me, and, smiling, said, What the devil, little curly-pole, do you know how to read? Aye and to write too, said I, much better. Is it possible? replied he, with a serious air. As G—d's alive, my friend, if you will teach me only to sign my name, I will pay you well. I asked him what use his signature only would be to him. He told me, that having obtained an employment through the interest of a certain personage, whom he named, and whose whole house he shod for nothing, he would be very glad when an opportunity offered of signing his name,

not to be obliged to confess shamefully he did not know how.

As soon as we had arrived at his house, some paper and ink were brought by his orders. I began to take upon me the writing master: I shewed my scholar how to hold the pen, and made him so often form the letters which composed his name, by guiding his hand up hill and down hill; he believed himself already possessed of all the elements of writing. After having daubed over five or six leaves of paper, he was so well pleased with me, he made me try on a new pair of shoes, which fitted me as exactly as if they had been made for me, and told me to wear them for his sake. I after this took my leave, and told him, every time I wanted new shoes, I would come and give him some new lessons to perfect him in his writing.

CHAP. VIII.

He engages in the Service of a Cook.

I WAS very well pleased with this new kind of life; I enjoyed that liberty so desired by all the world, so cried up by the philosophers, and so often sung by the poets. I possessed this precious treasure, which is preferable to gold and silver: but, by bad luck for me, I did not hold it long; a traitor of a cook deprived me of it very soon. This cook was one of my customers; he had very often employed me. My friend, said he one day, I am very well pleased with you; I wish to make your fortune: quit that idle life, and come fill the place of scullion in a nobleman's house, whom I serve. I will, through friendship, teach you the whole art of cook-

ery, and put you in a situation of being a cook fit for his majesty. At all events, the smallest fruit you can reap from this elegant profession, is to return rich to your own country. In a word, he cajoled me so by his fine discourse, I accepted his proposal.

He conducted me to the nobleman's hotel, wherein he served, and I took there my degrees and scullion's bonnet, that is a night-cap, together with a white apron. They gave me at first some fuel to cut up, which may be called the alphabet of those who aspire to a doctor's degree in cookery. The cook, my master, was a married man. He had in the neighbourhood a house, where his wife dwelt, and where we slept every night ourselves; but I passed nearly the whole of every day at the hotel, where I attached myself to render service to every one. I shewed myself so obliging, and did every thing

with so good a grace, that all the servants in the house, both male and female, conceived a friendship for me. Every one charged me with some commission, and I acquitted myself so well, and with so much punctuality, secrecy and fidelity, I hereby, from one and the other, got a great many little presents. As to the cookery part, I did my duty to a wonder, and my master was so pleased with me, that he often said I was born to walk in his footsteps.

I allow it was with no small share of trouble I served so well, but I was sufficiently recompensed by the caresses and the profits arising from my labours. Next to begging, which, beyond contradiction, is the first rank in civilized society, I could not be better than in this house to make good cheer; I especially, who had been reared up in abundance from my infancy, found myself there in my proper element. There was no

dish I did not dip my hand in, no sauce I did not taste, and I can truly say my master made exquisite ragoûts. Let the great *ordinary* cooks of St. Gilles, St. Dominick, of Sun Gate, Toledo Street, and the great Square, pardon me if I extol him far above them, notwithstanding the great reputation they have acquired by their fat-livered fricassees, and their nice slices of fried ham.—My happiness would have been perfect if I had not addicted myself to play: but seeing the pages and lackeys boxing the cards all day, I felt myself violently tempted to sometimes make one of the party, and I yielded at last to the temptation. I amused myself at first for a quarter of an hour, or half an hour at the most, playing with them. At length abandoning myself to that cursed inclination, and not being able to satisfy it during the day as much as I could desire, I stole out by night from my

master's house, as soon as I thought him asleep, and went to join at the hotel some servants of my own humour, with whom I generally staid up until sun-rise. If the cook had been informed of my conduct, he would certainly have curried my hide in great style; but no one would inform him, lest I should come to hardship. In the mean time I lost all the money I had gained by my little commissions, without losing my taste for play. On the contrary, I had the greater inclination for this pernicious pastime, and that necessitated me to steal in order to keep myself in stock. This is what I had not done hitherto, though I might have taken the precedent from my master, for every one in the hotel pillaged and appropriated every thing they could lay their hands on. It was there every one for himself. What is most astonishing, no one was ignorant of what the rest

were doing, and all, by one common interest kept the secret. Even if I had no propensity to gaming, or to purloin the property of another, I could not avoid being corrupted by the many thievish examples that were set me. I began then to howl with the wolves; I searched, I ferretted the whole house and all I could take, without any one perceiving me, was clear gain: but by misfortune for me, I had no sooner converted my prey to money, than I went to lose it at play.

Beside the hotel, where I exercised the subtility of my hands, and which was as a large sea open for all fishers, I had still the particular house of the cook my master, which indeed was but a small river, where no large fish could be hooked, I had, however, one day a tolerable cast of the net. The cook gave an early afternoon treat to some of his friends, all jovial blades, and born

for the bottle. They eat some chitterlings and slices of ham, which made them drink in triple proportion. During all this time I was at the hotel, from whence, after having finished all I had to do in the kitchen, I returned home, to see if there was any business there for me. The guests had already withdrawn. I found the room still warm with the festival, the whole place full of dust, the cloth was still on the table, and the floor was strewed over with empty, and for the most part broken bottles. The master, whom no one could see, but who made himself be heard, was snoring on his bed with such mighty force, as caused the whole house to tremble; and the mistress, who was pretty well I thank you too, slept by his side like a top.

I considered for some moments the wreck of this debauch. Afterwards casting my eyes on a silver goblet,

which was on the table, the ends of my fingers began to itch to be at it. The temptation was quick and interesting; it is needless to say it was victorious: I resolved on stealing the goblet. I made this reflection, that no one had seen me coming in, and that I might get out again unnoticed the same way. There was no more wanting to make me yield to the desire, that pressed me on: Come, Mr. Goblet, said I, quite low, thrusting it into my pocket, you shall pay, if you please, for those broken and *empty* bottles. As smooth as a silk thread slides through the eye of a darning-needle, I slipt through the door, and after having placed my booty in a place of safety, returned to the hotel in a cool, unruffled manner. Towards evening, the cook, after sleeping himself sober, arrived in the kitchen with a dizziness and head-ach, that put him in such

very bad humor, as to quarrel with me for the smallest trifles. He scolded me for having made a fire, where there was perhaps one billet too much. I let him say what he thought proper, without a single answer, and accompanied him home after supper. He lay down as soon as he got in. As for his wife, she slept so soundly, as to be able to throw off five or six drunken fits together. She only had a countenance something sad and mortified. I asked her the cause, with as much effrontery, as if I was totally ignorant of it. She informed me of the loss of the goblet; and told me she was less afflicted for its intrinsic value, as for the uproar and rout her husband would cause, when he'd come to know it: she was certain, she had more than reproaches to expect, having to do, (as it was true) with a brute, who would not fail to thresh her to mummy.

I consoled her the best I could, and indeed no one could do it better than I, if I choosed; I told her the goblet lost was not of so singular a kind, but that she could get a match for it in Madrid; it was hard if such a city could not produce one of the same fashion: that she had nothing the day following to do, but to purchase another cup of the same make, and to tell her husband it was the same goblet she got new washed, or even a new one she had purchased by giving the old and some few reas extraordinary in return. The dame approved of the scheme, and charged me with the issue of it. In fact, the day following I took the stolen goblet to a far part of the city, and gave it to a goldsmith to brighten, who assured me he would do it in a shorter time than I demanded, and in such a manner that the goblet would appear quite new.

I went with this good news to my mistress: Madam, said I, I have had the good luck to meet with a goblet at a goldsmith's which exactly resembles the fashion of the one you have lost. The least he will take for it is fifty reas, as well for its intrinsic worth as its fashion. The mistress, impatient to have wherewith to prevent the clumsy thumps of her husband, without a moment's hesitation, reckoned me out that sum, and even gave me half a rea for my trouble. I brought back in the evening the same goblet, which appeared so like the one she had lost, that she was sure her husband would never know the difference.

The money I derived from this adventure, put me in a situation of playing again. It was indeed a tolerable good resource for a scullion; but, alas! all those reas very soon fell into the gulph, which had swallowed up the

product of all my former thieveries. The chaps, with whom I embarked in play, were more experienced than I, although so long trained among the beggars to filch a card, to make false cuts, and many other tricks to be found only in the common-place books of sharpers.

It happened at this time, that a great feast was to be prepared for a foreign prince, who lately arrived at Madrid. It was to be a dinner. On the eve of this festive day, the cook took me with him very early in the morning to the kitchen, where the purveyor attended to cause the meats destined for the feast to be brought. My master and I, whilst we were alone, began to lay aside, what we thought belonged to us by right, as hound's fees. We soon filled a large sack with loins of veal, hams, neat's tongues, and all kinds of fowl, and hid it in a place, where it

lay snug and safe all day. When night came he placed it on my shoulders, and bid me carry it privately to his house; which I did not do, without sweating abundantly, it was so cursedly heavy. I returned afterwards to the kitchen, where he employed me until midnight in picking and larding. Then, loading me with a second sack, in which were leverets, pheasants and partridges; he said, Here Gusman, carry this again home, and go to bed and rest yourself, my friend. You shall tell my wife, I know not when I can get away. The damned liar! he knew very well he should pass the night at the hotel, where his presence was necessary, having orders to give to so many other cooks, who worked under his directions. But he was a little jealous, although God knows his wife was ugly enough to guarantee her honor, and he did not speak thus but to keep her within

bounds. He apparently feared she'd let his place be occupied by some honest neighbour: a duty that is sometimes rendered to cooks, as well as to other absent husbands.

Having returned to our house, I spread out in a gallery all our meats, which I hung upon hooks along the wall, and which formed a very handsome tapestry to look at. After that I thought of taking some repose, which I very much stood in need of. My mistress, who lay below stairs, was already in bed. I went up to my apartment, which was a cock-loft, or garret, where there was not less heat by night than by day, on account of the sun having its full influence on it, from morning till night. I took off my shirt to lie more coolly, and stretching myself quite naked on my wretched bed, fell asleep. But my sleep, although the most profound, was disturbed about

an hour after by a dreadful noise of cats, who were fighting at the devil's rate, and it immediately occurred to me that the gallery was the field of battle. I grew alarmed. It would be the devil, indeed, if those spiteful animals should have any design on our tapestry. I must go and see what's the matter, and what can be the cause of their noisy quarrel. Thereupon behold me on my feet, and without losing a time so precious in putting on my shirt, I hastened to get down to the gallery; but scarcely had I set foot on the ladder, (for I had no other stairs,) but my eyes were struck with a great light, which surprised and stopped me quite short. I turned my head to discover the cause of this sudden illumination; I saw a figure quite naked like myself, but so black I took it for the devil. Every joint in my body shook with fear. This phantom was my mistress, who being roused by

the battle of those rain-cats, came with a lamp in her hand to the assistance of our pheasants and partridges. As she had laid down in *puris naturalibus*, she had in her hurry, like myself, neglected to put on her shift. We believing each other individually asleep, this precaution appeared to us superfluous. We beheld each other at the same time. If I took her for a devil, she on her side took me for a hobgoblin. I gave a horrible squall. She answered it by another on as loud a key, and fled into her chamber with affright. I thought by her example to regain my garret, but I slid unfortunately along the ladder, and tumbled into the gallery so precipitantly, as to give myself some severe bruises.

I got up in great pain, and groping my way in the dark to a place I knew there was a small fusil, some matches and several ends of candles. I lit one,

with which I traversed the gallery, to see if the combatants were there still. But our cries had frightened them away. Seeing ourselves delivered from our enemies, I examined all the pieces of our tapestry one after another, and having made an exact examination, I discovered that the bloody battle, whose uproar had alarmed my mistress and me, was fought on account of a larded leveret, for which the cats had disputed with so much rage as not to leave a single bone of it together. This caused me to hang up our loins, our pheasants, and partridges, where I thought them placed beyond insult, after which I lay down again; but I could not close an eye. Besides feeling myself much hurt from my fall, the image of my mistress presented itself every moment to my affrighted imagination. I thought I had still before my eyes her tawny pelt. What a frightful looking animal is such

a woman naked! Day at length was beginning to chase away the shades of so disagreeable a night, and knowing that I was by order of my master to be very early at the kitchen, I got up and dressed myself in order to go there. As soon as I arrived my master asked what news from home, and how was his wife. I told him her *ladyship* was marvellously well, and that all was well at home. I did not think it prudent to speak of the quarrel of the ram-cats, lest he should take it into his head to impute the doleful destiny of the leveret to my bad generalship, and thereby punish my negligence.

It was a fine picture to behold the preparations that were making at the hotel to regale the prince whom they expected, and the different movements that were carrying on, and so many people employed in the kitchen beside those who were coming and going. There was

but to ask for whatever you wanted, and you had it; it is what every one was doing without the smallest embarrassment. You might call it a public confiscation of property beyond calculation. Provisions, literally speaking, was squandered away in the twinkling of an eye. One said, Give me some sugar for the turtles; and another cried out, To me for the turtles some sugar; and so on with the rest. You had only to change the manner of asking any thing in order to get it two or three times. We call those great feasts jubilees, as if we thought ourselves entitled to indulgences by pillaging the nobleman, whose bread we are eating. It is true the river then overflowed its banks on both sides, and the fishes were swimming in deep water. As for me, little hawk as I was, I waited to employ my own claws, when the large kites would have their talons full.

I felt in the mean time such an itching in the ends of my fingers to be at work, I could not for the soul of me refrain from slipping my hand into a basket of eggs, and putting softly half a dozen of them into my pocket. I got up, I am sure, off my left side that morning. My master remarked the action, and taking it into his head to act the honest man and zealous adherent at my expence, in order to throw powder into the eyes of several servants who were present, came up to me with a furious air, and knocked me down. I fell exactly on the pocket, where the eggs were, which were all broken, and made a genteel omelet, that was soon seen along my leg, and furnished the whole company with a fine scene of laughter. The cook alone preserved his gravity, and adding reproaches to the injury, he told me he would teach me to steal in the house of such a noble-

man as he served. In the fury I was in against the traitor, I was almost tempted to tell him, that no one to a certainty could teach me better than he; and that those eggs for which he chastised me, were laid by the very hens, he made me carry home the night before. But I held my tongue, and consequently shunned some kicks in the breech, which would not fail to be the price of so *caustic* a reply.

Notwithstanding the confusion which this disagreeable circumstance occasioned, I did not forget to thrust into my breeches two partridges, four quails, and half a roast pheasant, with some sweet-breads. This I did less through interest than a frolick. I did not wish that any one should say I was at court without seeing the king, or at the wedding without kissing the bride. The banquet being over, as my master and I were returning home that night, he

said to me, Gusman, my friend, don't be angry with me for what passed in the kitchen this morning. Forget the blow I have given you; it concerned me more than you think, to use you thus ill: I was obliged to act so through policy; at the bottom I was very sorry for it. But listen, my child, in order to console you for that accident, I will buy you a new pair of shoes to-morrow. It would not be with pride I'd get them, as I wanted them extremely. I became so grateful for this promise, as no longer to keep any resentment against him; but the knave did not keep his word. An incident disagreeable to me, and which I am going to relate, deprived me of this present. My mistress this night, gave me a very bad reception. I judged, since the adventure of the night before, she had conceived a mortal aversion to me, and I was not deceived in my suspicions;

she could not bear my looks, and seemed to have an embarrassed air. But I am sure she was less piqued at me seeing her naked charms, as at the handsome panegyrick I could make of them. Be it as it will, I went to bed without giving myself any trouble about her sentiments, and with the resolution of selling, next day, the game and sweetbreads I had stolen. I got up so very early, my master was still in bed when I left the house. I ran to the market, quite sure I would have time enough to get rid of my merchandize, and be at the hotel before him. In effect, as soon as I had arrived at the great square, an old dry miserly-looking gentleman, whom I have since cursed as often as I thought of him, offered to buy whatever I had to sell him. I was so eager, we soon struck a bargain. I agreed to give him the whole for six reas, and only waited for the money to set off to

the hotel like a deer. But the more impatience and vivacity I shewed, the more phlegm and tediousness the old rascal manifested. He had first to put a small register under his arm, with a large rosary, which was twisted round it, then to take off his thick gloves and fasten them to his girdle; afterwards having drawn out a pair of spectacles, he spent more than half an hour wiping them, the better to examine the money he was to give me.

In vain I besought him to make haste; in vain I told him an affair of the last importance summoned me elsewhere; he was deaf to my entreaties. What time did he not spend in untying his purse, and how many pieces did he not draw out one after another? Quarter, half-quarter reas, and even maravedis, looking on each of them two or three times in reckoning them into my hand. I was dying with impatience.

Damn you, you old hunks, you stupid humdrum, said I muttering, are you striving to provoke me, or to keep me engaged until my master, who already mistrusts me, and who perhaps is this moment hunting the town for me, will come and surprize me? It was just what I had a right to apprehend. The cook had heard me go out in the morning; my diligence appeared to him somewhat extraordinary, and suspecting me to have in my head some new prank, got up and dressed himself in all haste to run my scent. He came up just at the very instant the old squire, after all his slow proceedings, had paid me the money. Ho, ho, my youth, cried my master, seizing the hand that held the money, what bargain are you making here? At these words I looked as rotten as a smuggler taken in the fact. I was dumb; I had even the patience to put up with a few kicks,

and a thousand reproaches, nor did he withdraw until he forbad me his house and threatened to knock my brains out if I should ever have the assurance to come near the hotel.

My chapman for his sins waited the end of this scene, which was not less sorrowful for him than for me; for attributing to this old sorcerer the bad success the sale of my merchandize met with, I fell on him in a rage, and tore from him my quails and partridges, saying I would have my own, and that he might trot after the rogue who carried off his money. In the mean time I disappeared like lightning, to sell my game in some other market, leaving behind me the old phlegmatic squire to think what he thought proper of the adventure, which he probably looked upon as a trick concerted between the cook and myself.

CHAP. IX.

From the Service of the Cook, Gusman returns to his old Employment of Begging, and robs an Apothecary.

It is better to possess a useful talent than riches, since fortune is so fickle as to give us one day what she will take from us the day following. During the course of our lives she renders us like comedians, who appear incessantly under new characters. Who would have said, that after having served the cook so well, he would have turned me away for a trifle. So true it is, that thus wags the world, for the most faithful people, as the reward of a thousand services rendered to the great, are generally treated in the same manner for the most insignificant transgression. Stop Gusman, some one will say, you are going

to lose yourself in moral reflections. Where will this lead us to? To my basket, I will immediately answer; yes my friend, to my basket, which being for me what eloquence was for Demosthenes, and stratagems for Ulysses, hindered me from feeling my present situation intolerable. Vive le Cabas; long live the basket; it may be justly called a tit-bit; to taste it once is a sufficient recommendation to return to it a second time. I will avow that in recurring to it again, I was not a whit richer than when I had taken the foolish vagary to quit it; for I did not lay up in the funds what I had stolen during my employment of scullion. All that came in went out with the exception of an old coat, which was worth little more than the act-of-charity one I had thrown off before,

Lest any one should reproachfully say, I returned through pure idleness

to my first trade, before I bought a new basket, I thought I ought to offer my services to some other cooks, who were my master's friends, and whom I myself knew. If they had accepted them, I would soon have perfected myself in their art, of which I had already some good notions, and for which I might boast of some happy dispositions; but they knew I loved gaming, and that there was nothing at the hotel or my master's, sacred from my gripe, when I wanted money. Thus seeing myself without any hopes of entering into the kitchens of grandees, I resumed my old trade; I shouldered my basket, and began to serve the honest citizens. If I had not as good cheer with my new comrades as I had at the hotel before my discharge, as a counterbalancing circumstance I became independent, and master of my own actions; and this kind of life was, without doubt, prefer-

able to the other. Besides being naturally sober, I had less cause to regret a house where intemperance ever reigned.

We had in the place near Holy Cross habitations peculiar to ourselves. It was a small body of houses which we had purchased with the public money. We held there our juntos, and solemnized in it all our festivals. I got up with the sun, traversed all the shops, went to the houses of the bakers and butchers; the whole day I made my harvest. Those of our neighbours, who had no servants to carry their provisions took a pleasure to employ me, and I served them with that fidelity, which raised my reputation in the markets. It was the height of my ambition, and the main object of my occupations.

Commissions were given at this time to some officers to raise recruits. When that happened, the report spread every

where: the people astonished, ran in gangs to debate on the business, nor was there a house in which a council of state was not held. In our little corporation you may justly suppose we were not mute upon the designs of the court. We had among us some speculators, whose conjectures were not always remote from truth. When we were all assembled at night, and each related what we had seen and heard during the day in the principal houses of the city, the debate became general; and I assure you, if there were some among us who spoke impertinently on the subject, there were others who formed opinions, the solidity and justice of which were found justified afterwards by the conclusions, which followed. I remember we had with us a certain beggar, who had two wooden legs, and who stood whole days on a bridge, which he had chosen for

his post. That wag reasoned in such a manner as would have astonished a minister of state.

It was decided in our council, that the levies which were raising were destined for Italy. It certainly happened so, as I shall at some future period more expressly explain. The first time I heard talk of those troops, it made such an impression on my mind, I could not sleep that whole night. To crown my torments, it brought to my recollection my purposed voyage to Genoa.

Behold me now more than ever pressed with the desire of seeing my relations there, with whom I did not doubt but a splendid fortune awaited me, as they were all extremely rich, and some of them without issue. I imagined the issueless at least would be charmed to have an heir of my merit. It is true, to this agreeable reflection, some very sad suggestions succeeded; shall I, said I, in this garb of wretchedness

have the effrontery to appear before those nobles of Genoa? And when I shall inform them I am their relative, will they give any credit to my appeal? Even if they were simple enough to believe it, they will not fail to treat me as a knave or impostor, to keep up the decorum of their excellencies. Perpaps I would not get off upon such good terms. My father, to whom the genius of his nation is well known, often said that no one ought to depend on the Genoese, when he stood in need of their interest or reputation. But a moment after I judged more favorably of my kindred. They appeared to me in the generous character of my deceased father, whose memory was too dear to them, to refuse assistance to me in the situation they would see me. They will not dare to say, added I, that I am a liar. They are too prudent to treat me after that manner,

without having first questioned me on the affairs of our family, and it is in this circumstance alone all my hopes are centered. I will tell them some particulars, that no one, they will evidently know, could inform them of, but the son of my father, who alone knew them. Moreover, the particulars are such, it would be no way honorable for them, if I should render them public; this will to a certainty oblige them to use me well.

I floated after this manner between hope and despair. One time I thought I flattered myself too much, another time I supposed myself too unseasonably alarmed. I stopped at this last conjecture, which I found more congenial with my own sentiments, verifying the old proverb, which says, If you wish to be Pope, fancy yourself one; and resolved to profit of the favourable opportunity, which those new levies

offered, to make the voyage of Italy. One day as I was sitting near a shop in my usual post, and was raving on the infinity of pleasures I would have in Genoa, I heard a voice calling me two or three times, which roused me out of the pleasing delirium. I cast my eyes on all sides, to see who knew my name so well, and remarked it was a venerable apothecary, who had often employed me before. He made signs to me to approach; I ran to him: but two of my comrades, who were nearer to him got before me, and were eager to make him accept of their services before my arrival; he however pushed them off in an angry manner, saying, No, no, away, away, birds of bad luck, fowls of unpromising omens, there is no carrion here for you; it is for my poor faithful Gusman. He did not think he was telling the truth; then speaking to me, when I was near him,—Open

your basket, I give yon, my friend, the preference. I opened it, and he immediately threw into it three bags of money, which he held rolled up in the corner of his cloak. To what brazier am I to carry this copper? said I, with a smile.—This copper! replied the apothecary, smiling in his turn. You a beggar, and take this for copper! Come, my friend, continued he, let us go, I am in a hurry, I must pay a foreign merchant who has sold me some drugs.

That indeed was his design, but I formed another as soon as I had heard those charming words expressed: "Open your basket." The birth of an only son causes not more joy in the breast of a tender father, than I felt at those sweet words, which literally speaking, were engraved in letters of gold on my heart, if I may be allowed the expression. I looked on those

three bags, as a present which fortune had sent, to put me in a situation of acting a genteel part in Genoa. I believed them alteady in my possession. My man, who did not in the least mistrust me, having made more than one proof of my fidelity, walked on before me, and I began to follow him, feigning from time to time, to have a necessity of stopping an instant to rest myself, as if I had found the burthen a little too heavy, though in my heart I wished it double the weight. I was dying with desire to meet a crowd, or even some by-way, which might afford me the means of disappearing suddenly from the view of the apothecary. Just as we were passing a house I knew, and which had a back door, I darted into it with percipitation; and after having crossed it without finding any one in my way, I passed through two or three streets in less than a minute,

with as much celerity as if I had wings to my feet; but when I judged my man had lost my scent completely, I walked at an easy rate, and with an air apparently tranquil, in order to avoid giving any suspicion of the trick I had played.

I walked after this manner to the gate La Vega, that is, of the Plain, from whence, keeping up still a good countenance, I gained the banks of the Mançanares. From thence, crossing the house *del Campo*, I travelled a good league through bushes and briars. About night-fall I slid in among some poplars, and stopped in a place the most secret, and very near a river, to weigh more maturely what plan I should follow.—It is not sufficient, said I, to begin well, if we do not finish also well. What would it profit me to have made so good a prize, if I could not keep it? If I should happen to be pinned, I would be obliged to refund, and

would lose my two ears into the bargain. Let me seek, then, some place about here, where my prey may be in safety.

After having pondered a long time on different plans of concealment, I determined on making a hole, two feet deep in the bed of the river, and to put my basket there, with the three bags in it. Then having covered it with two large stones, I thrust very near the place a long stick in the sand, the better to know the spot, which concealed my dear treasure. This grand operation over, I lay down at the foot of a tree, opposite the buoy I set up, and passed the night there, not without uneasiness, though well satisfied in seeing myself so well in my affairs. Just as day appeared, I hid myself in a thicket, where I had the patience to continue until night; then hunger, which drives the wolf out of the wood, made me

quit my form to go buy some provisions, not in the villages round about, where the apothecary might have sent some alguazils and archers to hunt me, but to Madrid, as in fact it was the surest place. Independent of my hoard, I had money enough for this expenditure in my pocket. I returned along the Mançanares to the city, from whence I returned three hours after, by same rout, with a basket, wherein I had provisions enough for eight days. I employed the best part of this night as a hungry man, in stuffing my guts with bread and meat, and the rest in sleeping.

The next morning in awaking with Aurora, I felt myself violently agitated with the curious desire of knowing what was in the three bags. In vain I reflected it was the devil who tempted me, and that I could not satisfy my curiosity without running the hazard of

being seen by some one, the temptation was irresistible. I did not triumph over it, but in abandoning myself totally to it. It was necessary for my repose to give myself this pleasure, which undoubtedly was the greatest I had ever experienced since I came into the world. I approached the river, and after having looked with a scrutinizing eye to the right and left, to see if I could perceive any one, I drew my basket out of the water, carried it wet as it was to my den, and there opened my dear, dear bags. They contained two thousand five hundred reas, all in good hard silver, besides thirty pistoles in gold, which I found rolled up in a rag in one of the bags. I spent the whole day counting and recounting my cash with extreme satisfaction; and when night came, I placed them in my basket again, which I laid back in the same hole.

Having no design to make a journal, I will tell you reader, that having lain concealed after this manner a whole fortnight in the wood of Pardo, I imagined I had nothing further to fear, and that all the greyhounds of justice had given up the chase, fatigued and disappointed. I went again to fish up my bags, which I placed in the bottom of my bread-basket, under some new provisions I had again purchased at Madrid. As for my old basket, I left it in the river under the two stones. I afterwards cut two sticks, with one of which I carried my basket on my shoulder, and I made of the other a kind of staff, with which, pilgrim-like, I took the road to Toledo across the country, believing through a just precaution, I ought to keep as far as possible from the high road.

CHAP. X.

Of the young Man he met with in going to Toledo, and what passed between them.

After two nights' march I went at such a rate, I arrived in the morning at the middle of the Sagra, near a wood called Açuqueyca, about two small leagues from Toledo. I entered this wood to rest myself the whole of the day, not wishing to go into the city until night. I sat down under the shade of a close branched tree, and began to consider what bargains I would make. Four times as much money as I had would be too little to purchase all the things I proposed getting. To tell all the visionary projects that entered my brain, would be beyond the reach of possibility. I no longer feared to appear as a beggar before my relations: for I thought only of Genoa,

and made those ideal purchases merely to shine magnificently there.

In feeding my imagination with all those chimeras, I could not see running by me, almost at my feet, a rivulet of clear water without being tempted to refresh myself a little. I thereupon began to feel some appetite, and, putting my hand in the basket, spread out the remainder of my provisions in order to breakfast. Scarce had I eaten a few bits, when I heard some noise. I immediately turned my head, and saw with mortal affright a man about four paces from me, leaning against a tree, at the foot of which he was sitting;—but, having considered him with attention, I took courage: He was a lad nearly about my own age: he appeared so raw, he had, if I may be allowed the expression, the breast-milk yet on his lips. Although he was very well dressed, and had by his side a large par-

cel, in which I could discern some clothes and linen. He had a pitiful look, which gave me no very high idea of his purse. I judged he must be a knight-errant of my own description, who had also, through a foolish whim, left his family to see the world. We looked at each other for some moments without speaking a word; but as I remarked he fixed an imploring look on my provisions in such a manner as to persuade me he was hungry, I took pity on the poor lad. His countenance put me in mind of that which I had myself before the monk, who gave me part of his dinner at the inn, and I was not less charitable than his reverence. I asked the young man very politely if he would do me the honour to breakfast with me. Shame hindered him a first from answering in the affirmative. However, when I asked him a second time to join me, he stood no longer on

ceremony, and then declared he had not eaten a bit for the last twenty-four hours;—which I had no difficulty to believe, when I saw with what expedition he swallowed down the bread, meat, and cheese I helped him with.

We reciprocally asked each other several questions during the repast. He told me he came from Toledo, and was going to Madrid, and I, in return, said I came from Burgos, and was going to Cordova. He made to me a fine romance on the subject of his pilgrimage; nor was I a whit more sincere than he. For a novice, he knew how to tell lies very well, nor did he belie the reputation the people of Toledo have of being witty in every sense of the word. I asked him why he set out without provisions? He answered, that being obliged to leave the place with precipitation, he had not had time to provide himself, and that he was laden

more with baggage than money. So much the worse, said I, so much the worse; money is the best piece in a traveller's wallet. Although you should go to St. James, in Gallicia, through devotion, I would not advise you to reckon much on the charity of the world, for it is very cold I assure you. Another resource is wanting to a pilgrim beside his staff. I grant all that, replied the Toledan; I know very well it is a great imprudence to embark without biscuit; but I could not act otherwise, and 'tis useless to speak further on this subject.

It is your own fault, replied I, if you don't repair your omission by getting rid of a part of your clothes. I believe, besides, that pacquet is too burdensome; money is more portable. I agree with you, said the young man, and you may well imagine I will sell the half of them, as soon as I shall be

in a place where I can procure buyers. Perhaps, replied I, without going any farther, you have met a man disposed to discharge you of the best part of them, and pay you in ready money. Shew me what you have in your bundle, and I will lay aside whatever will fit me. At these words my little gentleman turned pale; he took me for a thief, who had a mind to make him pay his reckoning by taking from him some of his clothes, or at least for a wag, who wished to be merry at his expence; for my coat, which was not worth four maravedis, left him no room to suppose I spoke seriously;—it is not ability, but dress, that constitutes the man: We are apt to think well or ill of him we don't know, by his dress. *Tel je te vois, tel je te crois—such as I see you, such I believe you.*

I remarked very well his confusion, or, more properly speaking, I read in

his soul my intentions were suspected by him; and, as he answered not, I coolly drew out of my basket one of the bags; I untied it, put in my hand, and made a fistful of reas dazzle his eyes. My little gentleman, said I, there is enough here, I think, to pay for some of your clothes. He changed countenance at my action. He stopped eating, ran gaily to his bundle, and brought it to me, saying all that was in it was at my service; in the mean time he wished to shew me his *most beautiful* clothes: but I hindered him. Stay, said I, this will wait for us. Let us finish our breakfast first. These words were a new sauce to his appetite: he began to eat again, as if he had not already done honor to my provisions; and every now and then manifested such transports of joy, which he could not by any means conceal.

In order to destroy the ill opinion

which he must consequently form from my appearance, and hinder him from suspecting the money he saw to be ill gotten, I spoke to him as follows: "Sir knight, tho' appearances speak strongly against me, I am probably as well descended as you. What I am going to relate will shew you that those appearances are for the most part deceitful. I had, in leaving Burgos, as good clothes as you. I sold them in the first city I passed through, in order to disengage myself from a troublesome burden, and covered myself with those rags to frighten, or at least to excite compassion in those robbers, whom a rich dress would have infallibly tempted. If I had not had the sense to do this, it is a hundred to one but I would have been robbed, and would be at this hour without a farthing in my custody. As I intend to stop in Toledo, and make some stay there before I go

to Cordova, I have need at present of a good coat, and if you have one that will fit me, I am ready to pay you for it."

The Toledan, burning with impatience to close the bargain, his mouth still full, spread out on the green turf a well-finished coat, with a cloak of handsome, good, dark grey cloth, which he accompanied with two fine shirts and a pair of silk stockings. I tried them all on; they seemed to have been made for me. The young man did not cease saying so, to excite my desire to purchase them. One might say he dreaded the money would escape him, or that I would change my sentiment. He need not fear that: he wished to sell, and I to buy. Our dealing was the sooner concluded. He asked a hundred reas, and I reckoned them out without the smallest hesitation. We afterwards made a truck. He gave me for my basket a saddle-bag, in which were some clothes, and wherein I put

my money with the two shirts and silk stockings; as for the coat, I kept it on, and hung up the old one, with the rest of my begging dress on a tree, as a monument of my beggary. The Toledan, on his side, filled the basket with clothes and with the provisions which remained, which I cheerfully gave him. Whilst we were busy with our respective cares, the sun was insensibly going down. At length the hour of our separation arrived;—we embraced each other with a thousand demonstrations of friendship; after which each of us continued our road, both equally satisfied with our rencounter.

CHAP. XI.

He arrives at Toledo, and acts there the Personage of a Man of Consequence.—A detail of his curious Amours in that City.

It was beyond nine o'clock, when I entered the celebrated city of Toledo.

I gave myself two combings, and, above all, took care to brush my shoes and stockings well, to be able with effrontery to say I came in a coach. I enquired for the best inn, where I went to ask for supper and to lodge as a young man who appeared to be in good circumstances, and with a disposition to spare no expence. Those are the people who are welcome to such places. I was shewn a handsome room where there was a good bed, and was treated like a prince. I supped perfectly well, and slept still better.

Next morning, after ordering my chocolate, to give them to understand I was none of the common sort, I requested a hatter, shoemaker, and cutler, might be sent for, to rig myself out with the respective articles of their calling, as I wanted a hat, shoes, and sword, to correspond with the rest of my equipage. But the most essential

thing to be done was to send for a tailor, to disguise as much as possible the coat I had bought, lest, if I should perchance meet in the streets the parents or relatives of the young man who sold it, I might afford matter of suspicion dangerous to me. As, in fact, I ought to fear the coat would be known, and I prosecuted for having robbed, or perhaps murdered, the young man who wore it; justice, of course, should interfere, and there would be no more wanted to destroy me. I asked, then, for a tailor. They brought me one, who served me to my wish: In less than four or five hours he disguised the coat so well, in covering the sleeves with taffeta, changing the buttons, and putting a velvet cap to the cloak, that the devil himself would have been deceived.

I satisfied my tailor, and, overjoyed that I could go out now without any

apprehension from my dress, I went in the evening to walk in the Zocodover, where there is generally a great concourse of the genteel sort. Quite metamorphosed as I was, I did not cease being in dread of meeting some of my acquaintance. This fear, however, did not prevent me from feeling a secret pleasure in being ogled by the ladies of easy virtue, who, looking on me as a stripling that had never been as yet at Cythera, wished to shew me the way there; but I had resolution enough to guard against their seducing glances.

What astonished me, during this walk, was the neatness of the gentlemen in point of dress. My coat, notwithstanding the pains my tailor took to adjust and beautify it, appeared so shabby in comparison of theirs, I was resolved to get another. At the time I was forming this resolution, a gentleman, mounted on a beautiful mule

crossed the Zocodover. The coat he wore charmed me. I found it of a taste sogallant, I determined on getting one made like it. I was very near sending for my tailor that same night. I however got the better of my impatience to wait until morning. It is true, without being able to close an eye all night, I did nothing but think of the elegant figure I would cut in this new coat. Nevertheless, whatever inclination I might have to see myself so nicely dressed, some sensibe reflections would now and then counteract my design, when I considered the enormous expence such a dress would amount to.

It was no sooner day-light, than I sent for my tailor, to whom I told my intention, after having faithfully depicted the coat I had seen, and he promised to make me one exactly like it. He took upon himself to purchase the cloth

and trimmings, assuring me I should be immediately equipt to my heart's content; for I particularly insisted on dispatch, as I only waited for this coat to get married to a first-rate heiress. He did not fail to bring it to me at the end of two days. Never was there a coat more gallant, or more magnificent. Gold sparkled all over it. When I had it on, I was completely dazzled with my own mien and shape, which was already well turned, though I was scarcely fifteen years. I believe I was then the living image of my father in his youth, having, as well as he, a complexion fair and blushing, and hair of a light red colour. I was incessantly looking at myself in the glass, and soon took the thought of sallying forth to make myself admired through the city. One must be as enchanted, as I was with my figure, to satisfy my tailor without finding fault with his bill, which

in all conscience might be reduced to two-thirds of the amount. But too much, I imagined, could not be paid for a coat of such exquisite taste. My landlady seeing me so elegantly dressed, told me I could not at least do without a lackey. I hired one immediately, who had the appearance of a page, and got a new livery for him, that he might appear worthy of such a master.

The first Sunday after I went to the grand church, with my servant, after having given him some lessons how he was to follow me, in order to pay me the greater honour. I found there a great many men and women of comely aspect. I pressed proudly through the crowd, and visited the chapels one after another, which made a great many see through my design, and that I came there only to shew myself. I placed myself between the two choirs, having

observed the principal ladies to frequent this place.

'Tis there I played the part, I had often seen several young fools act in Madrid, and which I had practised twenty times that morning before my looking-glass. I first made choice of a place where I might be seen from head to foot. I afterwards advanced a full breast, and supported myself on one leg, whilst I held out the other with so much stiffness, as to scarce touch the ground, endeavouring by that to shew my nice breeches, and garters completely in fashion, that is to say, carrying all the imagery of trifling foppery. As this posture constrained me very much, I was obliged to change every moment, and made different grimaces at the ladies, who were looking at me. I smiled on one, stared at another with an air of cool indifference; I looked languishingly on this, and with daz-

zled delight on that. In short, I went on so far, that the ladies and gentlemen, whose looks my unknown face and extravagant gestures had attracted, began to laugh heartily at my expence; but I took no notice of them; I had too good an opinion of myself to imagine any thing ridiculous discernible in my manners.

However all the ladies did not join in the fun. There were some among them who were charmed with my little person; for without wishing to give offence to women in general, one may safely say, there are some, who seem formed for the most impertinent fops. I had among others the good fortune to please two handsome brunettes, who could not refrain from testifying it to me. The passion of the one was the work of my looks and grimaces; but as for the sentiments of the other, I owe them to my stars. The first of

my two conquests was a sprightly damsel, who had a roguish eye and a keen look. I ogled her as a novice, which did not displease her in the least; these kind of virgins love the *apprentices* a great deal better than the *masters*. She answered every glance with one as expressive, and this was sufficient for me to believe I ought in duty to follow her after mass, to know her abode. She walked very slowly, as much as to inform me, it would be my own fault if she escaped me. I walked after her at the same gait, speaking to her from time to time the most flattering things, the most witty and gallant compliments one of my age could think of. She kept silence, and only turned her head now and then in such a manner, as to assure me she dare say nothing, on account of the duenna who accompanied her.

We arrived near St. Cyprian, in a

small detatched street, where she dwelt. She made in entering her house a sign with her hand, to signify she did not take it ill of me to follow her, and not forget to give a look, that filled my soul with rapture and love. I remarked the house very well, and proposing to myself to come from that day henceforward to dance attendance before her windows, I resumed with a light foot the way back to my inn.

I was scarcely in another street, when a kind of Abigail, covered with a thick veil, said in passing by me very quickly; Sir, I beseech you, follow me; I have to speak to you on a very important affair. I did not hesitate an instant; I walked close at her heels, and we both stopped at the entrance of a coach-house, which we found open. There, seeing that no one could hear us, she addressed me as follows:—Charming unknown, you are so accom-

plished and amiable, you will not be surprised when I tell you a lady of quality, who has happened to see you at church, is inchanted with your noble and gallant appearance. She wishes to have with you a private conversation. She is lately married, and so beautiful ———. But, added she, interrupting herself, I will tell you no more; I must let you enjoy the pleasure of a surprise, which the sight of her must indubitably cause.

All this went down as sweet as honey; I could scarcely contain myself, so intoxicated was I with my own merit. I affected however to seem modest; I answered this go-between, that her mistress did me too much honour; I was really confused and did not doubt, I said, but she was a lady of the first rank; in short, I was all impatience to go throw myself on my knees before her, to thank her for her

condescension. Sir, replied the *Soubrette*, you cannot see her in her own house; it would be to risk too much; she has one of the most jealous husbands in the world; but tell me where you lodge, and I promise you that you shall have to-morrow morning a personal conversation with her in your own lodgings. I appeared very grateful for this promise; I apprised this officious waiting-womon of my abode, who immediately left me with the greatest hurry to rejoin her mistress, who was waiting impatiently, she said, to know if she had thanks to render to love, or reproaches to make to herself.

Behold me then engaged in two intrigues; but I thought I ought to bestow all my attention on the first; it was not but the second afforded extraordinary pleasure; it flattered my vanity infinitely. How agreeable is it, said I, to be a handsome man! scarce-

ly am I arrived at Toledo, than I have enchanted two beautiful women, who, according to all appearances, are of the most distinguished rank. What will it be then, if I continue for any time in this city? I will kindle a flame in the hearts of all the ladies in it. I returned to my inn, my mind quite full of those charming chimeras, which however did not hinder me from eating a very hearty dinner, after which I took the field again, as soon as I could, without feeling any inconvenience from the heat of the sun. I flew towards St. Cyprian; I passed and repassed before the windows of the house, where I had seen the lady go in, who so favourably looked on one with an eye of inviting approbation. No news at all; no lady appeared: I however persevered; I danced attendance until night-fall, and my perseverance was at length recompensed; a small ground-floor window

was half opened; I approached the place, and in the nymph, who came as if by stealth to present herself to my ravished view, I immediately recognised my charming princess, who said to me with a disturbed air, that she had for neighbours a very backbiting people, and therefore entreated me to appear no more in the street, but to withdraw myself for some time; that I might return in about two hours; that she was alone with her servants, and that if I wished, we would sup together. I almost swooned with ecstacy at this ravishing proposal, which I accepted, tenderly kissing the hand of my fair one. In the mean time, I begged to be allowed to have my own dish brought. That is not necessary, answered the lady; but as the things which I have to give, may not be to your taste, you are at liberty to act as you think proper.

As soon as we had agreed on our respective plans, I disappeared, lest I should afford a cause of tattling to her neighbours, and abuse her kind condescensions to me. I rejoined my page, who according to my orders waited for me at the end of the street. I gave him money to purchase at some good ordinary a fine pullet, two partridges, a rabbit-pie, with four bottles of delicious wine, some bread and excellent fruit. All those were ready and sent precisely at nine o'clock to the lady's house, where I betook myself also at the same time. She received me with a gracious air, and conducted me into a well-furnished apartment. It was there she laid herself in a bed of yellow brocade with silver flowers, and I remarked at the bed-side, under a pavillion of rose-coloured taffeta, there was a large tub, where the lady sometimes bathed. I found in this chamber a table laid out,

and a beaufet nicely ornamented with my bottles and fruit. I considered with pleasure these preparations, which promised me a few agreeable hours. I I could only have wished my amiable hostess to appear in a gayer humor. She in vain forced herself to seem tranquil and pleasant; I could only perceive she was labouring under some hidden mortification. My infanta, said I, inform me, I beseech you, why that sadness so evidently depicted on your amiable face, which you endeavour but in vain to conceal from me. Beautiful unknown, answered she, sighing, since I have not been able to conceal my grief from your interesting scrutiny, I shall avow to you, I am mortified with an unlucky accident, which has happened since I saw you. My brother, on whom I depend, and whom I believed still busy at court, soliciting a considerable employment, has returned

to Toledo, about an hour back; I would have informed you of it, if I had known your abode; nevertheless, added she, as he is gone to sup with a lady in the city, with whom he is in love, I don't think he will return here before midnight. We will at least have the satisfaction of supping and conversing with each other until then; and what ought to console us most, is his return in two days more to Madrid, where he will remain three months. I swear to you I would be inconsolable, but on that account, for his arrival. He is a man of the most violent temper in the world, and in point of honor, of a delicacy instantaneously exasperated. I cannot tell you how I am constrained whilst he is here; but we will be very soon, please God, delivered for a long time from him.

This information moderated my joy a little; the unexpected arrival of a

brother, of a furious brother, too, presented no very smiling picture to my imagination. I drew from it a very bad omen. I was enraged between skin and flesh, thrown completely into a hot fit of the ague at this obliging confidence, and wished I had been told of it much sooner. Although I was none of your great cowards, I loved rather to fight in a street than in a house, where I must necessarily defend myself, or suffer my ears to be lopped off. I thought, however, since the evil was without remedy, I ought to manifest some firmness and intrepidity. I besought the lady to keep up her heart, telling her with an air of seeming composure, that if her brother came to disturb our conversation, whatever resolution he would take, he would find he had to do with a spark, that would make him see a little of the country. Supper was brought in, and we both

sat down to table. We had not as yet laid a hand on the dish, when we heard the devil's loud knocking at the door. O Heavens! cried the lady, getting up with all the signs of a girl distracted, here is my brother, what will become of me?

One perhaps will imagine, that in order to support that opinion of bravery, which my rhodomontade might have given the trembling fair one, I prepared myself to receive courageously this disturber of our pleasures, as I had swaggeringly predetermined; quite on the contrary, I was so stunned, so affrighted, I considered only of seeking some asylum to screen me from his fury. I thought to get under the bed, but the sister judging I would be better in the large tub, made me get in, and covered me with a tapestry. Unfortunately for my gilded coat, the tub was very dirty and still very wet; besides,

I was very far from being at my ease, as I was as if packed down into it.

They opened the door at length for this devil of a brother, who was no sooner in the chamber, than astonished, or seeming to be so, to find there a table and beaufet so well garnished: he stood for some moments without speaking a single word; then all at once breaking silence, What do I see, sister? said he, with an imperious air, Why all those meats? Which of us has been married to-day? What *bran* new thing is this? For whom is this festival? For you, replied the trembling sister; I expected you. For others rather, replied he; Are you accustomed to treat me so magnificently? You cannot persuade me, it is to celebrate my return from Madrid, since I have already told you I would sup out in the town. I acknowledge that, my brother, said the lady: but you know very well, it

frequently happens, after having told me the same thing, that you return unexpectedly home: and if you remember, you have been sometimes in a passion with me, for having nothing prepared for you at your return. I am not satisfied with your reasons. replied the brother, and fear very much the scandal of the neighbourhood is but too well founded. For a girl of quality, you have not circumspection enough in your proceedings: mind what I tell you; you know my delicacy in point of reputation; take care what steps you take that may wound it; for by all ——. But no matter, added he, let us sup, I will at least for this night think you had no evil intentions.

At these words he sat down to table, his sister took her seat too, and they both began to eat, to *cranch* my poor supper. This bully acted the grumbler, stuffing his infernal guts at my expence.

The lady said not a single word, which he did not contradict. He swore, he blasphemed; and when she dared to remonstrate against such brutal conduct, he flew at her like one possessed by the devil, loaded her with reproaches, and seemed as if ready to dash her brains out. I lifted up softly two or three times a corner of the tapestry, which concealed me, to see the countenance and make of this formidable hector, but the apprehension I had, that he would see me, did not permit me to view him attentively.

The time was less irksome to him at table, than to me in the tub. I did not comprehend how so choleric and hasty a man could have so much patience in eating. He was more than an hour playing his jaw-bones, and that hour appeared to me an age. He emptied three of my bottles during supper, and after the cloth was removed, he

caused some pipes and tobacco to be brought, in order to expedite, said he, the fourth. Then the lady, the better to persuade me, how much she wished to have the ruffian removed, besought him to go smoke in his own chamber, and to leave her at liberty in her own. But he told her fiercely, she might go to the devil where she choosed; as for him, he would stay where he was that night. These terrible and last words put the finishing stroke to my despair. Until then I had some hopes that this abominable man, after having eaten and drank his fill, would retire to his own chamber, and that I might continue in that of his sister to pick the bones he left. I hoped at least the conclusion of the night would be more agreeable to me than the commencement; but I could no longer flatter myself with this presumption. The lady, as if she had shared in my distress,

endeavoured to turn him from his resolution, and not having been able to bring it about either by entreaties or tears, left the room, making all the grimaces of a person in the greatest affliction. She was no sooner out of the room, than he began to go on with the most extravagant actions of a man drunk, or out of his senses. Sometimes he sat down, at other times he started up and walked about the room with the pipe in his mouth; after that he danced, then taking his sword, he began to tilt with it against the wall. In a word, he whistled, sung, and spoke to himself all in a breath, swearing like a Jew to exterminate any man, that dare cough, sneeze, or stare at him.

After having spent half the night in those vagaries, he laid through precaution his sword naked with two pistols near his bed, upon which he threw

himself, dressed as he was, and stretched himself at full length on his back. God be praised, said I to myself, I believe he won't want rocking, to set him asleep. He will soon play his nostrils as well as he did his jaws before. I was still out in my calculation. His intoxication was not like that of any other rational being. This madman, instead of composing himself to sleep, did nothing for two hours but sigh and start up every moment, shouting as loud as he could bawl, Who is there? as if he had heard some noise in the room. I made no other, however, in my tub, but what was occasioned by me raising the tapestry the better to hear if he slept; which I very often did, from my impatience to get out of that accursed house. At length, Heaven took compassion on me. This swaggerer at day-break began to snore. Then exposing myself to every event, I left my tub

as dexterously as I could. I got to the chamber-door, walking on tip-toe, with my shoes in my hand; there having had the good fortune to find the key in the street-door lock, I bolted out, and sneaked off to my inn. They were all still in bed there, and particularly my page, who, thinking I was to pass the night in the arms of love, had lain down quietly, without giving himself any trouble on my account. I did not wish to disturb any one, and remarking a pastry-cook's shop open in the neighbourhood, I went in, telling the master that he saw in me a gentleman dying with hunger, and would do me a singular favor to give me something to eat. He told me, there were in his oven some petty-patees fit to be laid before the Archbishop of Toledo, and would be instantaneously got ready. I did not think it proper to lose so fine an opportunity of refresh-

ing myself, and, in waiting for him to draw the pies out of the oven, I employed all my wits about this cruel adventure, upon which the more I thought, the more happy I considered myself to get off even as well as I did.

The cook was not wrong in boasting of his merchandize; I found his pies excellent, or else my good appetite lent them that exquisite taste they had not. When I left this shop, it was broad day in our inn. I went up to my room and lay down, where I slept profoundly, after having been more than an hour tantalized with the remembrance of the brother and sister, and the different parts both of them had acted.

CHAP. XII.

Continuance and Conclusion of his Gallantries in Toledo.

I WOULD indeed have slept my belly-full, if two ladies had not arrived to

seek for me at the inn. One of them was so richly dressed, that my servant, dazzled by the magnificence of her dress, thought he could not dispense with troubling my repose. He awoke me to announce to me this visit. I immediately concluded it was the abigail with whom I had conversed the day before, and who, to make me believe she loved to keep her word, brought her mistress with her. I had no sooner desired him to convey her up, than I saw a tall, genteel, handsome woman appear. By her noble mien and easy manners, I imagined she must be some titled lady. She immediately advanced, and sat down on a chair near my bedside. I sat up in the bed, and, holding my night-cap in my hand, made five or six very low respectful bows. After that I besought her to excuse me if I received her in that manner, telling her I choosed rather to trespass on de-

corum, than to suffer a lady of her quality and merit to wait at the door. Let us set that aside, answered she, and come immediately to the point. Satisfy my curiosity first; How long are you in Toledo? What affair brings you here? Will you make any long stay? These questions did not in the least puzzle a person who knew how to tell lies as fast as a dog could trot. I composed such handsome fables on my birth and prospects, she was convinced I was an illustrious nobleman. But one truth escaped me, which spoiled all my falsehoods; instead of telling her I was in Toledo two or three months at least, I told her I came there only to divert myself for some days. I perceived that produced no very good effect. She had apparently formed on me some design, which these words disconcerted; and, looking on me as a bird of passage, whom she was soon

to lose sight of, she resolved to pull some quills out of my wing beforehand.

In order to bring that about, she began by taking off her veil with a free and gracious air, discovering a face of perfect beauty, hands whiter than snow, with a part of her neck which charmed me; she took off her robe of the finest Italian taffeta, and, seemingly without any design, drew from her pocket a large coral rosary, to which were attached some relicks, with several golden crosses and other jewels, with which she toyed whilst talking to me, as if she took no heed of what she was doing, when all at once she affected a great surprise in looking on the beads. She finished not the conversation she had entered on, and began to search her pockets with an inquietude which increased every moment. I asked her why she appeared so disturbed. In-

stead of answering me she began to search on the floor every where around: then calling her attendant, who was in waiting at the chamber-door, Marcia, said she, my dear Marcia, I have lost the great cross of my chaplet, that large cross which my husband has given me! How unfortunate I am! He will believe I have bestowed it on some one. Madam, replied the soubrette, you perhaps afflict yourself unseasonably—how do you know but you left it at home. I think I have seen it in your closet. It is what I must immediately find out, said the lady. Let us return quickly, I cannot live in this incertitude. In vain I strove to retain her, telling her there were many such crosses at the goldsmiths, and if she would consent to it, I would purchase one for her. She politely refused my offer, and said with an engaging air, do not, I beseech you, Sir, oppose my re

turn. Whether I find it at home, or that it is lost, I will not fail to be here to-morrow morning, at the same hour. In finishing these words, she went out, leaving me well pleased with her person, and very much afflicted for her precipitate departure. I could sleep no longer. I could do nothing but rave on my good fortune, and the pleasures it promised, until it was time to get up for dinner. When I was dressed, I sat down at a small table, where more meats were laid before me than would serve six. In the midst of my repast, I saw Marcia return, who informed me with a sorrowful countenance, that the golden cross could not be found, and, what is more mortifying to me, my mistress accuses me to be the cause. I have said, she pressed her too much this morning to dress herself quickly to come here. I have been, through curiosity, at a goldsmith's, to see if any

cross like it could be got, and by good luck I have found out one the very exact likeness of the one that was lost. I immediately understood what Marcia meant, and, aping the man of liberality, told her, if she had time to wait until I would be done dinner, I would go with her to the goldsmith's, and buy the cross she had seen there. As it was exactly what she desired, she answered, she would do what I pleased;—then beginning to praise her mistress, she told me all the good things in the world about her.

After dinner we went to the goldsmith's, where I made the purchase, which I gave to the abigail, beseeching her to tell her lady, that being in some manner the cause of the loss she had sustained, I thought myself bound by every obligation to repair it. The soubrette, ravished to have her reckoning, to have accomplished her design, dis-

appeared, after having assured me she would go make my gallant proceeding turn to a profitable account, and that her mistress would not fail the morning after to come and testify her grateful acknowledgements.

As soon as Marcia had gone off from me, I took the fancy of seeking an opportunity to see the lady from the quarter of St. Cyprian;—although I had every room to believe that she was a cheat, and her brother a bully, I loved to deceive myself, and, forgetting the trick they had played on me, returned to their street. I perceived the lady at a lattice, and was very soon remarked by her. She made me a sign with her finger, that she had some one with her, but that I should not go away. I continued, and, about a quarter of an hour after, I saw her go out. She went to the grand church, got in, and, having crossed it, in order to reach Patin-

street, and from that to Mercer Street, she slipped into a shop, from whence, by signal, she summoned me to her. I drew near and saluted her. How completely the damned sharper played her part! She burst all at once into tears at command, and, complaining to Heaven to have so wicked a brother, she testified to me the very acute grief she had had on my account. She swore a hundred and a hundred times it was not her fault that so distressing an adventure had happened me. She finally told me, that, in order to console me for that sorry night, she would prepare for me a better reception; that her brother was, that instant, about to set off for the country, where he would at least remain two days; that I might return that evening to her house; in a word, she spoke to me in such a manner, as to get me amorously into her snares again. I had the weakness to promise her I

would, at night-fall, call again at her house.

As the lady had entered that shop, she would not leave it without purchasing some trifles, according to the custom of women, and she purchased about one hundred and fifty reas worth: but when payment was talked of, she said to the merchant, You will, sure, let me have the goods, and give me credit until to-morrow; I will send you the money by my waiting-woman. The merchant, who did not know her at all, or who perhaps knew her too well, refused to trust her;—upon which the right honorable Signor Gusman, ready to seize every opportunity of complimenting the ladies, said to the merchant, My friend, don't you indeed see the lady is only joking? she has not the sum about her;—I carry her purse, as I have the honor to be her steward. In finishing those words, I drew from my

pocket, with the best grace in the world, some very beautiful fine crown-pieces, and paid the merchant. After that the lady and I separated: Adieu, my chicken, said she tenderly; remember I expect you at nine to-night;—but I absolutely forbid you to get any thing prepared for supper; I will take upon myself to regale you this turn.

After a mortal weariness, and the most teazing impatience on my part, the hour of rendezvous being arrived, I set off for the lady's mansion, true to my appointment, though at the hazard of passing a second night in the tub. I approached the door with as much eagerness as I hurried from it that morning. I made the signal we had agreed on: No answer. I repeated it: I neither heard nor saw any one. I was surprised, and imagined that the brother, apprized of the sister's design, had put off his excursion to the country. A

moment after, thinking I had made the signal badly, which was to strike with a stone under a low window, I redoubled my blows: I might as well be striking the bridge of Alcantara. I even rapped at the door several times. I listened, and, hearing not the smallest noise in the house, remained in the street until midnight, without knowing what to think of so extraordinary a silence.

My patience, at length, was nearly exhausted; I was on the point of retiring, when I saw coming up from my side a troop of the police. Through a motive of the best meaning caution in the world, I gained the end of the street, and set myself to watch them. They stopp'd short at my nymph's door, thundered with the knocker, and as they maintained an obstinate silence within, they bestowed such cudgelling on the door, they would soon have shattered it to pieces with their huge

clubs, if a servant had not appeared at a window, and askèd what they wanted. Open, open, replied an Alguazil, it is the guard, justice summons you to open. At this terrible name I shuddered all over, and was tempted to take to my heels, not knowing but I was the immediate cause of the search. When a man feels self-conviction of guilt, those honest gentlemen cannot be met with philosophic composure. I, however, took courage in making this reflection, that I had a very lucky escape from being the dupe of my princess and her pretended brother, who had drawn on themselves, by their conduct, the attention of justice.

I advanced even towards the house, as soon as the alguazils and archers had gone in, and, mixing with the neighbours who had come down into the street to see things more closely, I heard one of them say to the rest, They call

themselves brother and sister, but they are that only on the side of Adam. He is an adventurer of Cordova, who kept house a few months back at Toledo with a merry wench of Seville, at the expence of those young fools whom they allure into their nets. But for their misfortune, those two sharpers have tricked one of our town-clerks, who, in order to be revenged, has played this trick in return.

At this discourse the whole mob began to laugh at the expence of the town-clerk, principally because they knew him to be lately married. But, though they were very glad he was duped, they did not fail, however, to applaud his revenge; so true it is, that no one weeps for the chastisement of the wretched, if villainous. One may even say, it was a comedy to the by-standers when they saw the alguazils and his archers lead off this lady all in

disorder, together with her gallant, well tied and hand-cuffed, to prison. As for me, notwithstanding my recollection of the tub, I took little pleasure in seeing that miserable woman in so deplorable a situation. I was the only one of the spectators who had some pity, though I was the person who ought to have least. Rejoiced, however, to be no longer in error on that head, I returned towards my inn, foolish enough to flatter myself still that my other inamorata was of a more honorable texture. In vain I waited her morning visit the whole of next day; I did not even get sight of her silver-tongued abigail;—so that all my doubts being removed that I was a dupe there too, I made the most solemn vows to be ever henceforward on my guard against the fair sex.

CHAP. XIII.

Gusman takes a false Alarm, and suddenly leaves Toledo.—Another amorous Adventure on the Road.—Origin of that Proverb, At Malagon in every House a Thief, and, in that of the Alcaid, the Father and Son.

Such was the end of my gallantries at Toledo, and, to crown my perplexity, I met, in arriving at my inn, an alguazil, who was, they told me, from Madrid, and they further added that he enquired very particularly for a certain quidam, of whom he was in quest. I did not hear that unmoved: nevertheless, quite troubled as I was, I kept up a good countenance enough; but I was agitated the whole night with an inquietude which robbed me of all repose. I got up very early next morning, and, with my mind still full of this cursed alguazil, went to walk to the Zocodover. I had not made the circuit of the place,

when I heard cried, Two return mules for Almagro. I no sooner heard this cry, than I immediately profited by it. I determined that instant on hiring the two mules, as if I had a presentiment of finding at Almagro a company of soldiers ready to depart for Italy. I spoke to the crier. We agreed on the price. After which I sent my lackey to pay my landlord and fetch my baggage, which consisted of a valise, in which was my dress of mock-nobility, with some fine linen and the rest of my money. As soon as he returned I gave him one of the mules, mounted the other myself, and charmed to find so opportunely the means of quitting Toledo, took the road to Orgaz, where I slept that night.

There was in the inn I put up at, a handsome servant girl, who by her witty conversation and agreeable manners, seemed to have received an edu-

cation far above her condition. I scraped acquaintance with her, and in our communications felt thos e desires enkindle, which I made no point of concealing from her. She was not offended: she had even the goodness to promise me a visit some time during the night. But, my little jewel, said I, will you not disappoint me? May I depend on your word?—Without doubt, said she; you are too handsome a gentleman to impose on you. You will see, if I fail.

They put me to sleep in a room below stairs, where there was some barley, the door of which I took care to leave open, that the girl might come in whenever she judged most convenient. In waiting for my fair one, I fell asleep, though people very seldom slumber whilst engaged in so agreeable an expectation. But the inquietude, which the alguazil had caused in me the night before, not having permitted

me to taste the sweets of repose, I had still more desire to sleep than make love. However a little noise, which I heard in the room, was able to awaken me. I was suse it was my lovely *Thaïs*, coming to throw herself into my fond arms, and wishing to receive her with all the gratitude her punctuality in keeping her word seemed to deserve :—Come, said I, quite low, approach my cherub, I am dying with impatience. No one answered me ; I imagined the dear rogue purposely kept silence the better to irritate my desires. In this confidence, half out of bed, I stretched out my arms to seize her. I felt something soft under my hand, but of that kind of softness which really electrified me, as, in fact, it was the huge ear of a jack-ass, who having left his stable, had been attracted to my chamber by the smell of the barley, which was there. The animal, who at the time I touched

him, had his head stooped, raised it for my sins quite suddenly, and gave me such a chin-chopper, as made my jaw-bones rattle together, and filled my mouth with blood. Swearing a prayer or two, I bounced out of bed with the full intention of running my sword through the tripes of the d——d beast, who, by very good luck for him, was affrighted with the noise I made, and took to his heels. I went to bed again, storming against love, and renewing the oath I had already made of being ever on my guard against its delusive snares.

A moment before day I began to doze; but the muleteer came to inform me that breakfast was ready, and that if I wished to reach Malagon any way timely that day, I had no time to lose. I was very soon on my legs, and, after having eaten some bits of whatever it pleased the landlord to lay before me, I wished to mount my mule, who gave

me a kick that would have lamed me all the days of my life, if I had been a little farther from her, but fortunately I was so close to the vicious animal, she could do me no great harm. To the devil with every she of your kind, or even with every sort of a *she!* was my immediate ejaculation after so fortunate an escape—I am born to be mal-treated by them. In order to divert my fellow-travellers, and make the road short, I related to them the whole adventure of the ass, which was a very interesting recital for the muleteer; who told us, after having laughed his belly-full, that Luzia (for so the servant maid was called) had acted more faithfully with him; that she kept company with him the most part of the night, and, finally, that he would have me to know, that inn-keepers' servant girls belong by right to the muleteers, for the profitable customers they generally bring to those houses.

We arrived that evening at Malagon, from whence, thank Heaven, I set off the morning following, without any new trick being played on me by fortune, if I may except a bottle of delicious wine, which was stolen from me, and which I missed after riding three or four leagues. As God's alive, said I laughing, this theft verifies the old adage completely, which says :—"At Malagon in every house a thief, and in that of the Alcaid, the father and the son." Upon which the muleteer asked me, if I knew the origin of that proverb. I answered no, and would be obliged to him to inform me. This is it then, said he, if I can believe a good old man from whom I have it.

In the year 1236, Don Fernand, surnamed the Saint, king of Castile and Leon having information one day, that the Christians had penetrated as far as Cordova, and rendered themselves mas-

ters of the suburbs, which they call Axarquia; but the Moors to whom the place then belonged, and who were much superior in number, were preparing to drive them out. This monarch, zealous for his religion, resolved to fly to the assistance of the Christians. He sent off an express respecting his intention to Don Alvar Peres de Castro, who was then at Martos, and to Don Ordogno Alvarez. These two noblemen, the principal lords of Castile, came with all diligence to the king, who immediately set out with them. As he had but one hundred knights with him, he issued orders to all his vassels and soldiers, who might be in the cities, boroughs and villages of his dominions, to march with all speed towards Cordova. His orders would have been followed by a prompt execution, if time had permitted. But it was then the month of January, and the rains, toge-

ther with the snow had swelled the rivulets exceedingly, and caused the large rivers every where to overflow their banks in such a manner, that the soldiers not being able to advance, were under the necessity of stopping, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another.

There arrived so great a number at Malagon, they were obliged to billet a soldier in every house, and two on every citizen of property. The commander of these troops and his son, who was also an officer, fell to the lot of an Alcaid. Though the town was large enough, still there was so great a number of people, that provisions became dearer in proportion to the continuance of the bad weather. The soldiers seeing it out of their power to purchase provisions so very dear, began to steal in order to support themselves. Whilst things were going on after

this manner, a good-humoured peasant going to Toledo, met a troop of horsemen on the road, who asked him from whence he came. He said, he came from Malagon. What news, my lad, from Malagon? said one of the horsemen. The peasant made him that reply, which has since become a proverb:—At Malagon, in every house a thief, and in that of the Alcaid, the father and the son.

It is then unjust to explain this adage to the disadvantage of the inhabitants, since they were the injured, and not the injuring party. One may even say to their honour, that from Madrid to Seville, there is not a stage or inn, where people are better treated, or less flayed. As to the rest, I do not pretend to support, that it is more exempt from thieveries than elsewhere; but I assure you they are not the most dishonest people in this country.

As the muleteer finished these words, an ass-driver of his acquaintance passed by, of whom we asked the news of Almagro, from whence he came. He told us, there was a company of soldiers there newly raised, and destined, as every one supposed, for Italy. I leaped with joy at this report, and pardoned fortune for all she had hitherto made me suffer, on account of the good opportunity she now offered me to satisfy the violent desire I had of visiting Genoa.

CHAP. XIV.

Gusman offers himself to serve in a Company of new-raised Recruits.—How he is received by the Captain, and in what Manner they lived together.

My whole apprehension was respecting the ass-driver's veracity, lest his information was a falsehood; but I

was persuaded, in entering Almagro, he told the truth. I perceived colours in the window of a house where I supposed the Captain lodged. I dismounted at an inn very near, and I only thought of reposing myself until next morning.

Then being decked out in my best clothes and finest linen, I betook myself to the first church, where I heard mass, and from thence to the Captain's, whom I saluted with such an air as to leave him no room to doubt but that I was a young man of quality. I told him I came purposely to Almagro to join his company, breathing nothing but the inexpressible honor of serving my king. He received me with the greatest politeness; he began to testify his joy to see me have the disposition to enter so early in the career of glory; he then thanked me for the preference I had given his company, which would find

itself much honored in possessing a gentleman of a noble family, as it was easy to discern I was one of that description. I am sorry, added he, that all our posts are filled up; but if I cannot offer you one, I can, at least, share my own with you, and we will live together, as if you were captain as well as I.

To prove to me that words so honourable were not lip-labour compliments, he kept me for dinner, and regaled me very handsomely. He did not, however, forget, unknown to me, to commission one of his valets to inform himself from mine, who I was. My page, who had more than once heard me say, my name was Don Juan de Gusman, of the house of Toral, assured him that was the name I went by; as for any further information, he himself was at a loss. That was reported to the Captain, who piously be-

lieved I was a young branch of that illustrious race. For my part, I invited him the day following to my inn, and spared no cost to render the entertainment worthy of a gentleman, who would effectually have been, what my servant said I was. I did not stop at this dinner. I gave so many others to the Captain and the principal officers of the company, it is no wonder if they all loved and looked upon me as a subject, who did honor to their corps. The Captain, above all, treated me with such marked repect, as to sometimes put me out of countenance. It is true, in order to keep up his friendship, I sent him every day, by my page, some little present or another, which he, of course, received to testify to me his affection.

In the mean time my purse, which had not, like the sea, its flux and reflux, visibly emptied itself, without filling again. I had already dissipated the half

of my reas, as well in clothes, amours, and travelling expences, as in feasts and presents, without reckoning all I had lost in gambling with the officers, the most of whom knew better than I how to render fortune favourable to them. I was, however, still sufficiently in fund, to support for some time, the fine personage I assumed, when the time of marching arrived. I followed the company in quality of volunteer to the coast, where it had orders to stop until the galleys, which were to convey it with some other troops to Italy, should arrive at Barcelona, where the embarkation was to take place. But it pleased God that this circumstance did not happen for three months after, which gave the finishing stroke to my ruin; for wshing to continue my mode of living with the Captain and the other officers, as I had begun, I very soon found myself reduced to make use of

my corps de reserve, I mean my thirty pistoles in gold, which I hitherto had not touched, and which I expended with as little discretion as my reas. When I saw myself at the end of my last piece, I sold my fine coat, after that my linen; then I got rid of my valet, who went to seek his fortune elsewhere, and having no more money for play, I ceased to frequent the company of our officers, who guessed but too well, the reasons which obliged me to change my conduct.

Reflections came then in crowds to present themselves to the prodigal son. If I was incapable of making any whilst I had money, in recompence I made now millions, when I had nothing. I recalled all my past follies, and uttered all the reproaches against myself a professional pedagogue would have been able to make. I formed the resolution of being in future a good manager, as if

I had still had bags of reas in my valise. I principally repented of having given so many good dinners to the Captain, who, remarking that I was at low-water, no longer invited me to his table. The other officers judging I had nothing more to lose, turned their backs on me. The sergeants, who before watched my levees, and were punctual in their visits to me as their second captain, and thought themselves honored by a casual salute, sought me no more; not one, even to the common soldier, but shunned me.

If any thing could console me in such a wretched situation, it was, that during the course of my prosperity, I had not committed the smallest act of knavery; that gave the Captain a very good opinion of me, who believing me more than ever a young lad of distinguished birth, preserved always his first conceived esteem in spite of my mi-

sary. He gave me a tolerable reception when I went to see him, without seeming to take any notice of my affairs. He did not fail however being moved with my situation, and could not refrain from saying one day, that I appeared to him more than usually cast down; My dear Gusman, I should have been very hard-hearted and ungrateful, if I were insensible to your present embarrassments, after the many testimonies of friendship you have given me; but know, my friend, that my fortune is not a whit better than your own, and that I am sorry my circumstances are so inadequate to my inclination to testify to you my gratitude and attachment. All I can offer you in the present urgency, wherein I see you irremediably sunk, is a lodging in my house, and the table of my domestics; for I have ceased, through necessity, to eat at

home, being totally incapacitated to entertain my friends.

This proposal, which he did not make without blushing, was accompanied with so many obliging expressions, that I accepted it without hesitation. Stiff-necked haughtiness is unbecoming any one, much more a man, who has not a penny in his pocket, and knows not where to lay his head. It is a cameleon, which lives only on the wind. Behold me then become in some sort a domestic of the Captain, after having been his companion. But I owe him this justice; very far from treating me as a servant, he had always for me a particular regard. If any thing was to be done in his service, he always requested, instead of bidding me to do it.

On my side, in order to maintain his friendship, and earn the bread he gave

me, I shewed myself more zealous than his servants to serve him. I prevented his wishes. As he believed me possessed of as much discretion as fidelity, and even of a great deal of prudence, although I had sufficiently proved the contrary by the dissipation of my own property, he wished to ultimately inform me of the present state of his affairs, in order to let me know, said he, he had an entire confidence in me.

He told me then he was so far at low ebb, that some jewels he still had, constituted his last and only resource. Do you know, added he, what has reduced me to this extremity? It is the time I have been obliged to spend in soliciting my commission, and the presents I was necessarily compelled to make in order to obtain it. Yes, I would gladly renounce it, if I was to begin again, notwithstanding the very great desire every Spanish gentleman naturally has

to acquire some glory, by the way of arms. In fact, beside what money I lost in the pursuit, I cannot think of some circumstances without extreme confusion. How often have I stood whole days with my hat in my hand, begging, flattering, bowing to the ground, crossing courts, one time speaking to this one, another time accompanying that one; in a word, drudging, creeping, and doing a thousand acts of meanness. But the most mortifying circumstance, and which was most sensibly felt by me, happened on the evening of the day I was promised my commission. After eight months of solicitations and submissive attendance, such as I have mentioned to you, I accompanied the minister, whose smile was my sunshine, and who was then leaving the palace. I attended him to his coach with the most profound respect; he got in, and I, through the worst of

bad luck, put on my hat a moment before the coach set off. The minister perceived it. He darted a furious look at me, and made me well feel my action displeased him, as my commission was not delivered to me until four months after. I ran even the risk of being put off to the *Greek Calends* for my pains and expences.

God preserve me, continued he, raising his eyes to Heaven! God preserve every honest man from having any thing to do with people who have power and a bad inclination together! How absurdly blind are those idols of the court, who will have themselves adored as deities. They have apparently forgotten that they are no more than miserable comedians, who have got some fine parts to act, and who, at the end of the piece, that is, of their lives, go behind the scenes as well as we.

My Captain affected me very much

by this discourse, and I felt myself more penetrated with his misfortunes than my own. I testified to him, in the strongest terms my heart and soul could furnish, that there was nothing I was not capable of undertaking to get him out of the embarrassment I saw him in; in a word, that I would willingly expose my life for his service. He thanked me for my good will; but what assistance, pursued he, smiling, can I expect from you in your present situation? I will see what I can do, said I. If I am young, in recompence necessity whets the judgment, and may supply the want of experience. Leave me only to think on the means of making you live comfortably until our embarkation. The Captain smiled again at these words, and, without saying a single syllable, shook his head, as much as to say, he had but little confidence in expressions dictated by an indiscreet

zeal. If he had known my talents, he would have judged better of me: But I soon forced him to render me justice.

As the galleys delayed in coming, we were obliged to change our quarters very often, and were billetted upon * staple allowance in the villages. Wherever we were billetted, I gave a dozen of those orders, which brought us at least twelve reas each, and some of them fifty from the houses of rich labourers; as for me, I had free quarters in every house, without being billetted in any; nor did one of them escape me, where I did not play some sleight of hand. I would, I believe, have taken the water out of their wells, sooner than go without something. By those means I set the pot boiling in the Captain's kitchen.

* Et nous logions par étappe dans les villages. Etappe was a magazine in Spain, from which the soldiers drew their daily allowance by a written order from some superior officer.

His table resumed its usual respectability, and the subtility of my hands furnished him abundantly wherewith to make good cheer at a cheap rate. Turkeys, geese, hens, pullets, and pigeons, fell thick like hail into his kitchen; nor did I even let him want for hams in abundance.

If perchance it happened, that the master of a house caught me in the fact, and that the theft was insignificant, it was only made a laugh of; but if it was of any great consequenee, I was only brought before the Captain, who reprehended me with a terrific severity of look, and confined me in his own room, where I received by his orders a hundred lashes of a whip, which I never felt, though I accompanied every lash with such piercing shricks as made the whole house to echo. One would imagine I was torn to pieces, though not touched at all. That satisfied the

pillaged plaintiffs, and saved the officer's honor. Sometimes even the poor devils would intercede for me themselves, and through compassion beseech the Captain to pardon my transgression.

Jestings utltimately tends to seriousness, or great matters may arise from small beginnings. After these little strokes of genius, I wished to undertake more important trespasses. I selected for this purpose five or six determined fellows of the company, with whom I went disguised to gather laurels on the high road. We stopped some passengers, who gave us their purses with a docility, which prevented crimes their resistance would probably have forced us to commit; but our Captain was no sooner informed of an affair so desperate and delicate, than he suddered at the consequence, as well for me as for himself. He for-

bid me that pastime, and compelled me to confine myself to more innocent diversions, such as finding pass-volants, when there was a question of a pass-muster. This is what I understood to a miracle. I knew so very well to change the figure of the same soldier, whether by a false beard, or a patch over his eye, he might without the smallest danger of discovery receive three times his pay; in a word, I became so useful to the Captain, that he declared, my industry alone was worth more to him than all the perquisites of his company.

CHAP. XV.

Gusman marches with the Company to Barcelona, tricks a Goldsmith and embarks for Italy. He arrives at Genoa.

THE galleys at length arrived at Barcelona. As soon as we had advice of their arrival, we marched there in order

to embark; but the winds proving contrary, and the weather being in every other respect unfavorable, we were obliged to make a considerable stay in that city. It was no longer that country of resource, where one with a little dexterity and address might live splendidly at a cheep rate. I soon saw my Captain fall into his usual melancholy, the cause of which I easily penetrated. I ought indeed to know his malady, as I was the only physician who knew how to cure him, and who had before administered to him, the healing balm of plenty.

For this once I felt my natural cunning at a stand, not knowing the map of Barcelona, or the genius of its inhabitants. I failed not at all events to offer my specific to my patient, who thereupon told me with a very serious air, that we had no longer to deal with peasants, and must necessarily sound

the coast, ere we ventured in. Difficulties only served to irritate my invention, and an idea occurred, which I was resolved at all chances to follow. I have already said that the Captain had some jewels, which he kept as a pear for his thirst, as a provision for a rainy day. Among those jewels, was a golden relic, garnished with some precious stones, which he was determined to dispose of, in order to support himself until the time of embarkation. I besought him to shew me the trinket, and asked him, if he had so much confidence in me as to leave it in my hands for a day or two, adding at the same time, that I would restore it to him with usury. At these words he assumed a gay look, and smiling, answered, Oh, oh! my little friend Gusman, are you meditating on some of your sleight-of-hand touches, which you so judiciously know how to practise?

My Captain, however, consented. He gave me the relic, saying, he wished my enterprize might have a fortunate conclusion. No one was more interested in it than he, since the whole profit would devolve on him. I put the trinket in a purse, which I concealed in my bosom, after knotting its string in the button-hole of my waistcoat. Thus equipped, I entered the house of the first goldsmith I was shewn, and who, by good luck for me, was known in the city for a first-rate usurer. I asked him if he would buy a very handsome relic, and at the same time shewed him the one I had. I perceived he was very well pleased with it, though he affected not to appear so. I did not wait for the usual questions respecting the honesty of the seller, or the security of the purchaser; I told him I was a soldier in a company of new-raised recruits, which was to pass

over to Italy; that having consumed all the money I had, and no expectation of any fresh supply, I found myself reduced to the melancholy alternative of selling that relic, which nothing but the most extreme necessity could force me to part with.—Go, pursued I, go, inform yourself from my Captain, the other officers, and the soldiers themselves, who I am. They will tell you my name is Don Juan de Gusman. Upon the report they will make you of me, you will see if you can with safety purchase my relic or not. Whilst you are making those enquiries, I will wait for you on the quay, where an affair calls me.

The goldsmith, who did not wish to let the trinket escape him, took his cloak, and ran immediately towards the quarters where I told him we lodged. He failed not to ask some of the officers, and even the soldiers, if there

was any such person as Don Juan de Gusman belonging to their company. Both one and the other (for I was generally beloved) assured him I was a young man of quality, (and devil a lie they told him in that; but it is easy to guess the kind) who had a design of passing over with them to Italy, and that they had seen me make a very shining figure. They, in short, gave him such a good character of me, he returned with all imaginable speed to seek me on the quay, where there was no danger but he would find me, as I was not there but for the purpose of waiting for him, and tricking him into the bargain. He told me when he came back, he would be obliged to me to let him see the relic again, and that he would buy it. I will indeed, answered I; but let us go a little aside. We have no necessity to bring a mob round us. I drew the trinket out of

the purse and gave it him to examine anew. He looked at it on all sides, and after having considered it well, he asked me how much I would have for it. I told him two hundred crowns in gold, and that was only half its value. The old usurer feigned astonishment at this price, and began to tell me the gold of it was not of a fine kind. Besides that, he found a great many faults, as well in the workmanship as in the jewels; nevertheless, he would give me a hundred crowns for it. I seemed surprised in my turn. It is not enough, cried I, you only mock me. You both abuse and take advantage of my situation. But whatever necessity I may have for money, I declare you will never have it for less than a hundred and fifty crowns. He however held out so obstinately, I abated him thirty, so that the bargain was concluded at a hundred

and twenty. He besought me to go with him to his shop to receive the money. This I absolutely refused, telling him I was waiting for a man whom I had particular business with, and that I could not remove from the quay. He had, I said, but to return home for the money, as he would certainly find me again in the same place, where he left me. The goldsmith seeing I invariably persisted in not accompanying him, and fearing lest the person whom I expected, was one of the fraternity, to whom I had perhaps given a rendezvous for the same purpose, ran home with as much hurry as he had of inclination to possess the relic.

I soon saw the old knave returning quite out of breath. He carried in a little bag the hundred and twenty crowns, which he counted out to me. I asked for the little bag, in which I put back the gold, and offered him in return

for it the purse, wherein the relic was kept; but seeming not to be able to untie the strings, which I had purposely well knotted, I drew, as if through impatience, from a case, which he had at his girdle, a knife to cut them. Though this action surprised him a little, he was so far from penetrating the real cause, that he resumed the road home, very well satisfied with having profited of so good an opportunity, and little dreaming of the snare I had laid for him.

I let him go on some paces before me; I then gave the signal to one of my comrades, who was not a barrel better herring than myself, and whom I had posted in a convenient place, with orders to run to me as soon as I should give him the beck. I gave him the money in charge to carry home to the Captain; afterwards pursuing the goldsmith, whom I had not lost sight of, I came up with him at the meeting of

several streets, where there was by chance a crowd of soldiers gathered, and pointing at my old buck, began to cry out as loud as I could,—"Stop thief, gentlemen soldiers, stop the thief. For the love of God secure that old knave, who has robbed me; don't let him escape." The soldiers, some of whom belonged to our own company, stopped the goldsmith immediately, and asked why he gave me cause to cry out after him in that manner. He was at first so confused, so seized with fear and astonishment, that he was not able to articulate a single word. If he had been even able, it would be useless; the voice of his accuser would have drowned his. I alone made all the noise, I cried without ceasing, and in order to make more impression on the soldiers, threw myself on my knees before them in imploring their assistance with floods of false tears.

Gentlemen, you see in that old scoundrel the greatest hypocrite in all Spain. I was just now with him on the quay. He remarked a purse in my bosom, and asked me what it contained. It is, said I, a relic which the Captain, my master, has forgotten this morning on the pillow of his bed, and I have taken it up to restore it to him. This old thief, whom you have there in custody, besought me with an air of honesty to shew it him, telling me he was a goldsmith, and skilled in jewels. I satisfied his curiosity; after which he proposed to me to sell him the relic. That cannot be, said I, as it is my master's property; at the same time I put it back into the purse, which was tied to the button-hole of my waistcoat. The old rogue thereupon amusing me with fine words, drew from the case, which he wears at his girdle, a knife, with which he instantaneously cut the

string, whose ends are still evident to be seen. Give yourselves, gentlemen, if you please, the trouble of searching the old villain, and you will find both purse and jewel, which he has not had yet time to dispose of, so closely have I followed him.

The soldiers set about rummaging the old badger, who was still staring at them without uttering a single syllable, and absorbed in all the speechless agony of astonishment. They drew out the purse and relic from his bosom, where he had snugly deposited it, and perceiving in effect that the strings were cut, they were fully convinced the old goldsmith was a thorough-paced knave. He had in vain (when he got the use of his tongue) protested and sworn I had sold him the trinket, they refused to believe him, not imagining that an old experienced goldsmith would have been capable of buying from a young soldier

so rich a relic, without suspecting it to be stolen.

Once more, gentlemen soldiers, cried the defendant, I have paid that young man for the trinket, by such tokens that he ought to have actually upon him, one hundred and twenty crowns in gold, which I have reckoned out to him. You have but to search him in his turn, and you will find this identical sum, which he received a few moments back. The soldiers, in order to satisfy him, began to examine me from head to foot; and seeing I had no money, burst out into the most horrid invectives against the poor wretch, intermixed with a shower of kicks and blows; nevertheless, as he was still entreating to be brought before some magistrate or another, they conducted us both to justice.

I related the affair there as I had already told our arch conductors, who

being interrogated by the judge, said that every circumstance tended to corroborate my testimony, and that the goldsmith had indubitably taken the relic from me by force.—Besides, this citizen was known to be a man very selfish, covetous, and unjust, so that no one could hesitate in believing him guilty. The magistrate, however, wishing to shew some consideration for his family, which was one of the most respectable of the corporation of merchants, only gave him a sharp reprimand, and gave me back the jewel, with orders to carry it back to my master, which was immediately executed.

The Captain, when I gave him a full account of this adventure, returned thanks to Heaven from the bottom of his soul that it had so fortunate a conclusion. He was afraid, and indeed with a good deal of reason, that I would get but very scurvily out of so scabby

an affair, and my boldness made him tremble. Though he alone had all the profit of my knavery, he resolved to get rid of the knave; he dreaded that I would finally destroy him by some of my pranks. He waited with impatience for the day of our embarkation.

That day, so much desired by him, arrived a little time after. The galleys set sail from Barcelona, and landed us safely at Genoa. We had no sooner set foot on shore, than my Captain said to me in private, My dear Gusman, we are at length in the country where you have so often wished to be; (for I had told him in confidence of the design I had formed to go see my relations) it is necessary, therefore, if you please, that we separate: I dread as much as I do all the devils in hell your light fingers; they may one day bring me to misfortune. Adieu, my friend, continued he, putting a pistole in my hand; I am

sorry I am not in a better situation to acknowledge your services. In finishing these words, he turned his back on me, leaving me so stunned with his compliment, I was not able to utter a single word. But what could I have said? Was it necessary to represent to him all the dangers I had braved for his sake? He was not ignorant of them: it was even on account of them he turned me adrift. I ought not to be so surprised with his proceeding. I met with the general destiny of the wicked:—People make use of them as long as they are serviceable, as they extract from vipers and scorpions their substance for physical purposes, and throw the rest away.

As soon as I had left my Captain, or, more properly speaking, when I saw he abandoned me, I only thought of remedying the misfortune. Nothing was more suitable to make me forget it, than

to consider I was at length in Genoa, a place I so long earnestly wished to see. I went at first to take a turn in the city, where I asked some news concerning my relatives. I was given to understand they were high and puissant noblemen, and the richest in the Republic. This information caused in me a great deal of joy, and made me judge I would receive wonderful supplies from them, when they would hear that I was a branch of their illustrious family.

Waiting till I should be in a situation to pay them a visit respectively, I thought proper to seek out some paltry inn, where I might live at little expense. The pistole could not last me long. I was also obliged to lay out a part of it on shoes, which I stood in wretched need of, as well as of every other article of dress.

END OF VOL. I

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